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LD2511143088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Conflict—Six people were killed and around 20 wounded in the fiercest street battles between the Amal Movement and Hizballah since May, AFP reported. The fighting erupted in the southern suburbs of Beirut 24 November and spread to Shi'ite districts in West Beirut. "Guarded calm" prevailed early 25 November after a cease-fire agreement and the deployment of Syrian troops in the combat zones, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio noted.

Among earlier reports on the fighting, an Amal source cited by Voice of Lebanon claimed that Amal fighters were able to regain several positions lost in previous battles. Hizballah sources accused Amal of using its "regular army" to attack Hizballah positions and linked the clashes with the recent assassination attempt against Hizballah leaders in the Al-Biq'a Valley, the radio noted. Confirming the intensity of the fighting, Beirut radio stated that rockets, machineguns, and artillery were being used. **Israeli Raid**—Israeli jets attacked Palestinian targets near Sidon 25 November, AFP reported. According to the Voice of the Mountain, the Israeli planes also targeted positions held by Lebanese Muslim militias, killing three people and wounding seven.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres soon to resume discussions on the establishment of a broad-based government, Jerusalem radio reported 24 November. Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had earlier told the Labor Party Political Bureau that Labor should remain willing to hold further talks with the Likud, IDF radio noted. The Bureau nevertheless issued a statement affirming that there is "no basis for negotiations with the Likud over the establishment of a new government."

Violence in the territories claimed further victims 23-24 November: Jerusalem radio noted that an Arab teenager died as a result of wounds caused by IDF gunshots 19 November. THE JERUSALEM POST disclosed that another Arab died of injuries sustained in a 7 November clash. A Palestinian woman was killed by a bullet in the Gaza Strip 24 November, but the IDF denied that any military activity took place in the area at the time of her death, IDF radio reported.

Regarding Israel's attempt to persuade U.S. authorities not to allow PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to visit New York, Foreign Ministry officials cited by Jerusalem radio disclosed that Israel has supplied the United States with information about terrorist attacks in which 'Arafat was "personally involved."

PLO Affairs

A PLO official submitted Yasir 'Arafat's U.S. visa application at the U.S. Consulate in Tunis 25 November, AFP disclosed, noting that 'Arafat is applying under an Algerian diplomatic passport. The PLO leader wants to visit the United Nations on 1 and 2 December to participate in debates on the Palestinian question. Palestinian sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo subsequently "confirmed" that 'Arafat has been granted an entry visa. 'Arafat himself arrived in Libya 25 November, JANA noted.

A Beirut news bulletin cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that 'Arafat has instructed his Fatah supporters in Lebanon to stop launching cross-border attacks against Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algerian-Egyptian Relations—Algeria and Egypt resumed full diplomatic relations as of 24 November and will nominate ambassadors as soon as possible, according to a joint statement broadcast by Algiers and Cairo radios.

A Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau communique carried by Tripoli television viewed Algeria's decision within the context of the "grave deterioration" in Arab policies and reaffirmed Libya's determination not to resume relations with Egypt. Libya does not want to engage in a "futile war of words," the communique added, but it cannot remain silent on this issue.

Syrian View of Egypt—A "high-ranking" Syrian official cited by Radio Monte Carlo indicated that his country welcomes Egypt's decision to recognize the independent Palestinian state. The radio added that official Syrian media recently stopped criticizing the Egyptian government.

Iraqi-Jordanian Talks—Talks between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordanian King Husayn in Baghdad 24 November focused on bilateral relations and the Arab situation, INA reported, noting that the discussions covered the need for "action" to restore Lebanon's unity, stability, and security.

Iran-Iraq POW Exchange

Iran repatriated 52 sick or disabled Iraqi POW's 24 November in the first stage of an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] for the repatriation of all sick and injured prisoners, IRNA reported. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman, however, stressed that the agreement provided for Iran to deliver a first batch of 115 POW's, not 52. The spokesman, who was cited by INA, added that Iraq was therefore making a proportionate reduction in the numbers of Iranian POW's released the same day. Only 19 Iranians were sent back on the plane to Tehran, instead

of 41 provided for in the agreement. A related KUNA report noted that the ICRC was informed by Iran that some of the missing Iraqi POW's were no longer ill, while others had voluntarily decided to stay in Iran.

Iran

In a letter broadcast by Tehran radio 24 November, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni appointed Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in charge of "all affairs of the dear disabled," adding that Musavi should seek to establish "new organizations" concerned with this issue. Khomeyni also emphasized his personal support for the prime minister, describing him as "a capable and caring person for the Islamic revolution."

Tehran television broadcast a message by Khomeyni the previous day lauding the mobilization forces (basij) and calling for the enrollment of students in the basij to prevent "agents of the United States and the Soviet Union" from infiltrating the universities and seminaries. Khomeyni also stressed the need to form "nuclei of resistance" all over the world because "mobilization is not confined only to Islamic Iran."

Afghanistan

The Afghan Army thwarted a rebel "coup attempt" in Qandahar the night of 21 November, Soviet Foreign Ministry official Gennadiy Gerasimov stated at a press briefing reported by TASS. Afghan military officers who "betrayed state interests" led a 400-strong rebel group toward the local Army Headquarters but were ambushed by "patriotically-minded" soldiers and officers who had found out about the betrayal. Some 30 rebels were killed in the battle and others were wounded or captured, the report stated. Monitored Afghan media were not observed to mention the incident.

Afghan government forces which recently recaptured Towr Kham found the corpses of 70 as yet unidentified people, Kabul radio revealed, adding that the bodies showed signs of torture. The radio indicated that the bodies were dumped in the area by the rebels.

Libya

Jallud in Rome—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud began official talks with the Italian prime minister in Rome 24 November, JANA reported. Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi had earlier told an Italian newspaper that he hopes a settlement of Libya's war reparations claims can be achieved in a friendly way, ANSA noted.

CW Export Denial—A Foreign Liaison Bureau source cited by JANA denied allegations that Libya has supplied Somalia with nerve gas. A Somali spokesman likewise dismissed BBC reports on the supply of Libyan nerve gas to Somalia as "shameless and astonishing lies," according to Mogadishu radio.

Algeria

An official statement broadcast by Algiers television 23 November stressed that street demonstrations in the capital are still prohibited because of the need to preserve "calm and composure" during the period of "democratic dialogue" about the state of the country and its future. Any public gathering might disturb the people's security, the statement said. Paris radio noted that this warning was issued on the same day that university students planned to hold demonstrations against torture. Students were prevented by police from demonstrating in a public square in Algiers and were obliged to confine their protest to the university campus.

Sudan

The Khartoum authorities announced a ban on rallies and parades in the capital in the wake of the 22 November clashes in which 60 people were injured, SUNA reported. The agency stated that the violence erupted when southerners confronted a parade organized by the National Islamic Front.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Files Application for U.S. Visa for 'Arafat *NC2511105888 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT* 25 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, Nov 25 (AFP)—The PLO filed an official application here Friday for a U.S. visa that would enable Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit the United Nations in New York.

Labib Zuhdi al-Tarazi, the PLO's observer at the United Nations, made the application at the U.S. consulate in the Tunisian capital, where the PLO has its political headquarters, a correspondent at the scene said.

He also applied for a visa for himself and for Jamal Surani, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, Mr. al-Tarazi said.

Mr. 'Arafat will be carrying an Algerian diplomatic passport that was issued on November 15, the day of the declaration in Algiers of an independent Palestinian state, he said.

Mr. al-Tarazi said he was due to return to the consulate later Friday for a reply to the visa applications.

The PLO leader wants to visit the United Nations on December 1 and 2 to participate in the U.N. General Assembly debates on the Palestinian question and renew calls for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

U.N. officials have made an official request for the U.S. authorities to grant Mr. 'Arafat a visa, but the State Department in Washington said earlier that an application had not yet been filed.

'Arafat Granted U.S. Visa

JN2511123888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1220 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] We have just received a dispatch citing Palestinian sources who confirmed to our radio that Yasir 'Arafat has been granted an entry visa to the United States on the basis that he will visit the United Nations late this month.

'Arafat Views UN Visit, USSR, EC Positions

JN2411193288 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
23 Nov 88 p 3

[By Muhammad Isma'il]

[Excerpt] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has stated that President Husni Mubarak has informed him through Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, that the U.S. Administration has agreed to

grant him an entry visa to address the UN General Assembly. He pointed out that he has a mission to accomplish there and that he has the right to move within a 25-mile radius.

Following the Egyptian-Palestinian talks, 'Arafat said: We have discussed the future steps that will follow the important positive results of our PNC and the way to move on the regional, Arab, and international levels.

Regarding what has been published about the formation of the Palestinian government, 'Arafat said: We will proclaim a provisional government, not a government-in-exile. The formation of the provisional government is still being studied by the PLO Executive Committee, and the study will resume when I return from the United Nations. He added that many Arab states have made offers to host the government. 'Arafat expressed his happiness concerning the international reaction to the proclamation of the independent state. He pointed out that 54 countries have so far recognized the Palestinian state.

Regarding the Soviet position toward the proclamation of the Palestinian state, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: It is very positive. Actually, it is a practical recognition.

Regarding the statement issued by the EC Council of Ministers, he said: I consider it very positive, and it has presented a detailed and positive assessment of our PNC's results. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi on Request for Full UN Membership

JN2311154088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1408 GMT
23 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 23 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi declared that the next step in Palestinian strategy is to request a seat in the United Nations as a member with full rights.

In statements to the Tunisian Press Society last night, the Palestinian official said that any attempt to hamper this request will be met by a request to freeze Israel's membership. He indicated that it is not possible to implement half of partition Resolution 181 on establishing a state for the Palestinians and another for the Jews.

Qaddumi indicated that the Palestinian state proclamation, which has been imposed by the hands of the stone-throwing children, is confusing the world from east to west, giving the Palestinian people the initiative, and ending Israel's golden age.

He added that the Palestinian state means rectifying the course of history after a deviation of 40 years and changing an Israeli attitude which has been fed by myths and which rejects peaceful cooperation.

The PLO Political Department head noted that a reading of the Israeli election results reveals that Israel's clinging to the religious parties and their metaphysical programs

is making Israel reject openness toward its surroundings and peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians, who have not called for anything except a change in Israel's attitude against peace. In this respect, he said that the basic aim is to change this attitude and not to annihilate the Israelis—as they claim.

Qaddumi affirmed that the extraordinary PNC session's resolutions reflect the maturity reached by the Palestinian revolution in that they ensure the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil. They also support its unity and entrench Israel's isolation even further, even in the eyes of those sides which yesterday were the most loyal allies of the Zionist entity.

On this topic, he said that the EEC's position was less than what he had hoped for. He indicated that he is expecting some European countries, including Italy, France, Greece, and Spain, to be among the first countries to support the Palestinian state. He described Turkey's position as extremely satisfactory.

PNC Speaker on UN Membership

JN2411090888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 24 Nov (WAKH)—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said the Palestinian state will soon submit to the United Nations an official request, supported by documents, to become a UN member after more than half the UN member states have recognized it. In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Shaykh al-Sa'ih asserted that Israel will not dare annex the West Bank and Gaza after the proclamation of the Palestinian state. He said the future will see the establishment of a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian state after the occupation is terminated. The Palestinian people hope the U.S. position, which rejects negotiations with the PLO, will change and that Washington will agree to hold an international peace conference, he added.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih pointed out that the Palestinian leaders are currently holding intensive contacts with all Arab and Islamic states, the nonaligned states, the European group, and other friendly states in order that the Palestinian state be recognized. He said the Palestinian people were pleased with Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state as this will encourage more world states to follow suit. The PLO is planning to coordinate with Palestinian institutions in the occupied territories in order to study their continuity, authority, and the work assigned to them to run people's affairs in the occupied territories after the disengagement of relations with Jordan and the proclamation of independence.

Regarding the Israeli reaction following the proclamation of an independent state, the PNC speaker said Israel is threatening that it will not permit any party to take

control of the occupied territories. This proves that the occupation authorities do not seek peace or negotiations with their Arab neighbors, he added.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Memo on Palestinian State LD2411104888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0946 GMT 24 Nov 88

[By Adib al-Sayyid]

[Text] Moscow, Nov 24 (KUNA)—Soviet recognition of the Palestinian state in spite of the fact that its territories were under occupation adds political, rather than legal, international, dimension to the recognition, says a memorandum prepared by the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The memo, obtained by KUNA, was prepared specially to explain the dimensions of the Nov 18 Soviet recognition of the Palestinian state in response to doubts casted by Western media that the Soviet recognition was limited to (?supporting) the Palestine National Council (?steps) aimed at realizing self-determination to the Palestinian people according to the United Nations resolutions.

The memo said there were no international regulations governing the timing and ways and means of recognizing states and the level of that recognition.

It said there were two forms to express recognition: unilaterally or through practices indicating desire to establish diplomatic relations with the new state.

The memo affirmed that the question of recognition in itself has no constitutional meaning that is to say the new state is existing regardless of the recognition. But it added that recognition plays a vital role in introducing the new state to the international community.

France's Dumas on 'Upgrading' PLO Representation JN2311180688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] It was learned today that France is thinking of upgrading the Palestinian representation in Paris. However, the form of such a move has not been defined as yet. French sources have affirmed that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas alluded to this possibility in a conversation with foreign journalists accredited to Paris yesterday.

The PLO office in Paris does not enjoy diplomatic status and is officially called the Liaison and Information Office.

PLO Representative in Paris Ibrahim al-Sus told us by telephone that he had discussed this topic with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on 18 November when the French minister received him. He added that this

was discussed among other topics, including the upcoming visit of PLO Political Department head Faruq Qadumi early next month. Ibrahim al-Sus said that this will be the first official visit by the head of the PLO Political Department to France.

Khalaf Warns of Failure To Respond to PLO Move
*JN2511100088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT
25 Nov 88*

[Text] Doha, 25 Nov (WAKH)—Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, Fatah second-in-command, has warned against world failure to respond to the PNC resolutions issued in the extraordinary session recently held in Algiers. He said failure to respond will create extremely serious developments.

In an exclusive statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Salah Khalaf explained that the first of such developments or changes will be the fall of the Palestinian struggle's historic leadership, which has offered all it can. Second, extremism and violence will return through the new leadership of the Palestinian people, who will continue to reject Israeli occupation.

Abu Iyad expected the formation of a provisional Palestinian government within 6 months after the ripening of international efforts to recognize the Palestinian state on the one hand, and the move designed to hold an international conference for peace on the other. He asserted that the continuation of the harmony that has existed for over a year between the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian action abroad will effect changes in the region. Consequently, the Zionist enemy will be compelled to change its way of dealing with the Palestinian people and will yield to the international pressures designed to recognize the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Abu Iyad also expected that during its summit meetings in December, the European group will take the initiative and declare total recognition of the Palestinian state or promote the Venice declaration.

OPEC Affairs

Further Reportage on Vienna OPEC Meeting

Nigerian Envoy Mediates Dispute
*LD2311191388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1757 GMT
23 Nov 88*

[Text] Vienna, Nov 23 (KUNA)—OPEC oil ministers have put off their evening meeting until Thursday morning to allow time for more consultations on a way out of the current impasse, chiefly the Iran-Iraq quota dispute.

KUNA has learnt that the 13 OPEC ministers might further postpone their meeting until the weekend to boost chances of reaching agreement on output and oil prices that overcomes the Iran-Iraq quota dispute.

Some ministers are of the view that it is better to put off plenary meetings that would not produce an accord acceptable to all parties.

Their main reason for this is fears that oil prices would plunge further in international markets once the OPEC ministers leave the conference room without agreement.

The OPEC ministers have not met since Monday's hour-long opening session of their current bi-annual conference but announced at the time that they would be holding extensive bilateral consultations on how to cut overproduction and bolster prices.

A first step to achieving this is resolving the Iran-Iraq quota issue. Iraq has stayed out of OPEC production-sharing systems over the past two years after its demand for quota parity with Iran had been rejected by Tehran.

This created a situation whereby some OPEC members and producers outside of the organization have been overproducing and depressing oil prices worldwide.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that a Nigerian presidential envoy briefed OPEC president Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria on the outcome of his weekend talks with the Iraqi and Iranian presidents, respectively, Saddam Husayn and 'Ali Khamene'i.

The Nigerian emissary sought to bridge the gap between Baghdad and Iran regarding their long-running quota dispute.

'Some Progress' Reported

*LD2411083888 Tehran IRNA in English 0751 GMT
24 Nov 88*

["Some Progress Achieved on Iraqi Quota Issue, OPEC Minister Says"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 24, IRNA—An OPEC mediator trying to solve one of the organization's most difficult and crucial problems for years has reported movement in settling the dispute over Iraq's oil production quota.

Indonesian Oil Minister [title as received] Ginanjar Kartasasmita, member of the 4-man mediation team, said Wednesday night after meeting with Iraqi Oil Minister Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi that there were was progress in the talks. He declined to elaborate.

Oil ministers of Indonesia, Nigeria, Venezuela and Algeria are mediating to solve the Iraq-Iran dispute on production quota. Iraq has been calling for equal production with Iran, a country with three times the population of Iraq.

The second full OPEC ministerial meeting today is to discuss and review results of the week-long behind-the-scene talks on Iraq's quota.

25 Nov Meeting Postponed

LD2511110888 Vienna OPECNA in English 1018 GMT
25 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, 25 nov. 88 (OPECNA)—OPEC oil ministers, who had scheduled a meeting for this morning, have put it off until the weekend.

The postponement will give them time to consult their governments so that a production agreement signed by all 13 member states can be worked out.

Since the opening of the conference here Monday, the ministers have held only one plenary session, preferring to meet individually and in small groups.

Appeal to Non-OPEC Producers

LD0811211588 Vienna OPECNA in English 1621 GMT
8 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, 8 Nov (OPECNA)—OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto has called on non-OPEC oil producers to revise their attitude towards cooperating with OPEC in the search for lasting oil market stability.

Exploration and production costs in these countries are high, especially in offshore areas like the North Sea, while in OPEC member countries they are low, he said.

OPEC believes, emphasizes the secretary general, that there is "room for all" producers to share a steadily shrinking oil market, but, he advises, this would call for genuine cooperation on the part of all producers. "There is no alternative if enduring stability in the oil market is to be achieved," says the secretary general. He urges producers to "look reality in the face" and join OPEC in forging an equitable alliance in which each producer respects the legitimate interests of the others, and from which both producers and consumers benefit.

Concerning the level of oil prices, Subroto says that OPEC's decision to return to a fixed-price system coupled with agreed output levels for 1987, steered the oil industry away from the turbulence of 1986 into "calmer waters".

In a foreword to the 1987 OPEC "Annual Statistical Bulletin", released by the organization's secretariat here today, he says if non-OPEC producers are not willing to do this "out of goodwill towards OPEC", then self-interest should "guide their steps". Subroto warns that "sooner or later" non-OPEC oil supplies will become insignificant, leaving OPEC's immeasurably greater resources to meet world demand.

He points out that OPEC member countries hold two-thirds of the world's known oil reserves, which are constantly being revised upwards, but currently account for only one-third of global production. However, he says, non-OPEC oil reserves, including those of the centrally planned economies, are not commensurate with their production rates, and "are declining fast".

In the early months of 1987, he says, OPEC's strategy proved "manifestly successful" with oil prices rising dramatically to equal, and even surpass, the organization's reference price of 18 dollars a barrel. However, Subroto stresses that the oil market is a "highly sensitive barometer" which reacts quickly to the slightest pressure, recalling that in the second half of 1987 "disturbing trends" emerged to put new pressure on prices.

Oversupply, fuelled by increased non-OPEC output, accelerated oil stock build-up by consumers at a time of increased tension in the Gulf, he says, while higher OPEC production combined to threaten the "new-won stability".

To counter these developments, says Subroto, OPEC sent a committee of three ministers to all member countries "to put its house in order", while fresh efforts were made to contact non-OPEC producers to urge their cooperation. However, producers outside OPEC continued to increase output, thus aggravating market oversupply, a situation which was still prevailing at the end of the year, says the secretary general.

Algeria

Diplomatic Relations With Egypt Restored

LD2411124388 *Algiers Domestic Service in French*
1200 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] An Algerian-Egyptian joint communique was released today announcing the resumption of Algerian-Egyptian diplomatic relations. The communique says:

Reinforcing the fraternal relations between the fraternal Algerian and Egyptian peoples; out of their belief in the common Arab destiny in the march of the pan-Arab struggle for liberation and progress; owing to the role undertaken by the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Arab Republic of Egypt in defense of the sacred issues of the Arab and Islamic nations, at the forefront of which is the central issue of the Palestinian people; out of their conviction in the necessity of building Arab relations on the basis of close solidarity and cooperation in the field of the common action in conformity with the supreme pan-Arab interests; because they belong to the African continent and the OAU; upholding its ideals which lie basically in the struggle for completion of their liberation and the promotion of their economic recovery; out of their belief in the principles and objectives on the Nonaligned Movement and their adherence to their firm positions on international and regional issues; and out of their desire to develop and reinforce cooperation and consultation between them in the interests of both fraternal peoples, the governments of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Arab Republic of Egypt have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations beginning 14 Rabi' al-Thani, 1409 al-Hegira, corresponding to 24 November 1988 A.D., providing the two ambassadors to Algiers and Cairo, respectively, are nominated as soon as possible.

Public Demonstrations in Algiers Banned

LD2311220888 *Algiers Television Service in Arabic*
1500 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Before continuing this bulletin, here is an announcement from the Algiers Province Coordination Office:

Due to the numerous demands by citizens who want to meet to discuss the current problems, the Algiers Province Coordination Office reminds the public that measures were taken to allow participants access to available public meeting places to facilitate holding meetings within the framework of the wide democratic dialogue which was initiated. However, it is worth pointing out that it will be possible to find solutions to the current problems in conformity with the citizens' deep aspirations only in an atmosphere of calm and composure.

Therefore, to secure the necessary calm and composure until the end of the democratic dialogue on the state of the country and its future, it is worth reminding the

public that due to the current circumstances, any public gathering might lead to disturbing public security. Any citizen who comes to the capital must preserve public security.

Consequently, it is not possible to allow any public demonstrations in conformity with the regulations of Article 97 of Decree 47/75 issued 17 June 1975.

Students Hold 'Calm' Demonstration

LD2411174788 *Paris International Service in French*
1245 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Two demonstrations against torture were scheduled to take part today in Algiers, but the authorities made sure to remind the public this morning that any gathering is still banned. Here is correspondent Claire Arsenaud-Lers from Algiers:

[Begin recording] The youth who were gathering to protest torture this morning in Algiers—following an appeal by the inter-university student committee—were forced to turn back. When they arrived near 1 May Square they found a strong police force blocking access to the youth who were arriving in small groups. Calmly but firmly, the police told them to go back where they came from, which they did without making any trouble. Between 200 and 300 students then retreated to the central faculties of Algiers [university in the center of Algiers] where a minor, calm demonstration was held.

In a communique published this morning, the authorities recalled that demonstrations in the streets are banned. The text stresses that in current circumstances, any gathering inevitably carries serious risk of disturbing public order. A second gathering at [the university of] Bab Azzouar, east of Algiers, is scheduled to take place this afternoon following an appeal by the National Committee Against Torture. This gathering is due to be followed by a silent march leading to El Alia Cemetery where a wreath will be laid on the grave of a youth killed during October's riots. But this afternoon's gathering could be dispersed even before forming, thus meeting the fate of this morning's gathering of students. [end recording]

The Algerian minister of justice said that any complaint against torture which is made to tribunals will be treated according to provisions of the law. He said that this is the government's commitment.

FLN Official on 27 Nov Congress Agenda

LD2511002188 *Algiers APS in English*
1028 GMT 24 Nov 88

[All quotations marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 24/11/88 (APS)—“The 6th congress of the FLN which will start on November 27 will debate political reforms in addition to points included in the agenda such as the question of development and elected people's assemblies, Abdelhamid Mehri declared.

The head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee said this proves that the reform has not started after the events of October and that it was the subject (of) reflection well before these events.

In an interview to "REVOLUTION AFRICAINE" and "EL-MOUDJAHID WEEKLY", Mehri also dealt with the [word indistinct] which, he said, it aimed at getting rid of the formula of "party" which is by nature selective and restrictive—at least theoretically—in order to substitute it with the "FLN" formula which is aimed at gathering all the energies of the country because the latter agree on objectives, values and common denominators.

Or the FLN, the national charter adopted by the people represents a common denominator. The opening will first be done towards the large Algerian popular masses in their various categories and which the party has up till now not managed to mobilize in the struggle for the edification.

These masses are in their convictions and orientation near to the FLN Party. Afterwards comes the [words indistinct] through the practice of democracy in the choice of the representatives of the people within elected assemblies and who will be chosen by the people. These representatives can not be far from the values of the people and their aspirations even if they are not members of the FLN Party.

The rerooting of the FLN is considered as an alternative to multipartism, Mehri added.

"If at the end of this (phase), there appears a persistent claim for multipartism, the extraordinary congress will be convened and will submit the question to the people who will have to decide about multipartism, as President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party pointed out. We have to be logical with ourselves. "The front in its new formula does not include pluralism, it is a sketch presented by militants as a formula gathering patriotic energies, enabling the exercise of democracy, the practice of a [word indistinct] information, a responsible information to overcome the challenges the country is facing.

In this context, Mehri concluded, the positions the FLN will occupy in the power, in mass organization or in assemblies will be the reflection of values and principles it represents. They will result from political options favouring the development of the country and society. In a word these positions will not be occupied in implementation of a constitutional text or law but on the basis of intrinsic values of militants. If there are any who consider that we have abandoned the mass organizations, it is inexact".

Egypt

Diplomatic Relations Resumed With Algeria

NC2411114488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Joint statement issued by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria on 24 November—read by announcer]

[Text] To promote the brotherly relations existing between the Algerian and Egyptian fraternal peoples; out of the belief in the common Arab destiny in the course of the nationalist struggle for liberation and progress; in consideration of the role played by both the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in defending the sacred causes of both the Arab and the Islamic nation, foremost among which is the central issue of the Palestinian people; out of their faith in the need to build inter-Arab relations on the basis of close solidarity and cooperation in joint action as prescribed by the supreme interests; proceeding from their affiliation with the African Continent and their membership in the OAU and their dedication to ideals which basically lie in their struggle to complete the liberation of the continent and promote their economic development; out of their belief in the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement and their adherence to their firm positions on international and regional issues; and out of their desire to promote and bolster bilateral cooperation and consultation to serve the interests of the two sisterly countries, the governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations as of today, 24 November 1988. The nomination of ambassadors in both Algiers and Cairo will take effect as soon as possible.

'Abd al-Majid on Restoration

NC2411134888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed his delight and satisfaction over the restoration of Egyptian-Algerian ties. Speaking after a statement was issued announcing the restoration of ties between Egypt and Algeria, 'Abd al-Majid said that ties between the two countries have been good and strong since the struggle for independence began in Algeria.

'Abd al-Majid said that Algeria is a brotherly Arab nation and that Egypt has always opened its heart to its Algerian brothers.

'Abd al-Majid mentioned that meetings had been going on between officials of both countries in the absence of diplomatic ties. He said that the meetings between President Husni Mubarak and President Chadli Bendjedid in Addis Ababa symbolized the strength and depth of

the relations which were further underlined by today's statement on restoring ties. 'Abd al-Majid concluded by saying that Egypt will soon nominate its ambassador to Algeria.

Israeli 'Extremists' Attack Tel Aviv Embassy
*NC2511151088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT
25 Nov 88*

[Text] Sanaa, 25 Nov (MENA)—The official Yemeni AL-THAWRAH newspaper has strongly denounced yesterday's attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv carried out by a number of Israeli extremists. The attackers were protesting Egypt's recognition of the independent Palestinian state. The paper asserts that Tel Aviv's false conviction that relations between Egypt and Israel would rid the former of its Arab identity reflects the stupidity and short-sightedness of Israel's rulers.

In an editorial published today, AL-THAWRAH says the restoration of Algerian-Egyptian ties, which coincided with this attack, was not preplanned. This proves the falsity of the Israeli conviction that Egypt had turned its back on its Arab nation, or that the Arab nation had turned its back on one of its states, particularly a state which leads the nation's struggle, occupies its center, and constitutes the heart of its body. [Cairo MENA in English at 1420 GMT on 25 November in a similar report adds: The Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv was yesterday attacked by a number of Israeli demonstrators protesting against Egypt's recognition of the independent Palestinian state. The Israeli army radio said scores of extreme right-wing Hathiya organised a violent demonstration in front of the Egyptian Embassy premises and hurled stones at the building. The attack resulted in breaking the building's windows and smashing of three cars belonging to the embassy.]

Zhuravlev on Bush-Gorbachev Meeting, Israel
*NC2511095888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0941 GMT
25 Nov 88*

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Nov (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Gennadiy Zhuravlev has announced that the meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President-elect George Bush, which will be held in New York soon, will set the major outlines of the two superpowers' moves toward formulating a peace process and a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and paving the way for an international conference to be held in light of the recent PNC resolutions issued in Algiers.

In a statement to the Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper published today, the Soviet ambassador stated that his country's condition for restoring diplomatic relations with Israel is the acceptance by the latter to participate in an international peace conference that would be attended by all parties, including the PLO or Palestinian state representatives whom the Palestinian leadership would freely choose.

Badr Says Over 1,800 Detained 'Past 2 Months'
*NC2511120088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 25 Nov 88*

[Text] The Cairo AL-AHRAM newspaper today quoted Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr as saying that the Egyptian police have detained more than 1,800 persons without trial during the past 2 months. Badr added that the individuals are being detained in accordance with the emergency law. He added that the detainees are being held for political reasons or because they are fundamentalists.

Libya

Relations With Egypt Not To Be Resumed
*LD2411233388 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued the following communique:

Algeria has declared that it has resumed political relations with the Egyptian regime. This decision is, in essence, nothing but a general trend in which Arabs nurture the illusory belief that their motivations serve Arab unity and strengthen the Arab nation's struggle.

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya watching this grave development in the Arab struggle, affirms the following:

First, the Great Jamahiriya will not resume its relations with the Egyptian Government, despite its love for Egypt, and despite the fact that the ties linking the Jamahiriya to Egypt are greater and stronger than those linking the latter with any other Arab state. Our position does not prevent us from appreciating Egypt's role in the struggle, and expressing our good wishes for Egypt. However, this does obscure the fact that Egypt recognizes the creation of an enemy state on Palestinian land, pledges not to fight the enemy, and guarantees it secure borders.

Second, the enemy is the enemy of Egypt and all Arab nations, and recognizing it has only increased its tyranny, challenge, power, and contempt for the Arabs. Proceeding from its pan-Arab commitment, the Great Jamahiriya demands that the enemy be fought and eliminated, because the enemy seeks to destroy the Arabs, using constant and unlimited U.S. support. And the enemy does not distinguish between those who are with it and those who are against it among the Arabs.

Third, the Arab nation and its dynamic forces must know that the Great Jamahiriya cannot resume its relations with Egypt so long as the Zionist flag flies. Furthermore, according to its principled positions, the Great Jamahiriya cannot betray the Arab nation and abandon its effective role in combating the enemy. It hopes that the resumption of relations between the Arab brothers and Egypt will benefit the Arab cause. It also hopes that Egypt will return to the Arab ranks, although

reality shows this to be a false hope. What happened is that the Arabs have gone to Egypt, and it is not Egypt that has returned to the Arab ranks, as the promoters of this trend say.

Fourth, the Great Jamahiriya does not dispute Egypt's leadership of the Arab nation, but the Great Jamahiriya cannot march in a column led by Egypt, unless this column pursues the right path, and removes the threat of the Israeli enemy, and the threat of the destructive bacteriological and nuclear arms which it is preparing to destroy the Arabs.

Fifth, the Arab nations' masses do not believe a single word of the Arab states' communiques announcing their relations with Egypt. Everything in these communiques contradicts reality, because what the Arab brothers do in this context reinforces just one thing: It serves the common enemy, entrenching its presence and improving its world image. Thus the Arabs lose any justification in the eyes of the world for boycotting the Zionist enemy.

Any call by the Arab League or the PLO, or by anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist forces, to expel the enemy from the United Nations loses its effect and credibility, being contradicted by the Arab states' resumption of relations with Egypt.

The Great Jamahiriya wishes its brothers well, and prays to God to inspire them to the right way.

While reaffirming its position, the Great Jamahiriya is not entering into a futile war of words and information campaign. However, it cannot remain silent on this grave deterioration in Arab policies. This is the word that must be used to judge a situation in which everything now embodies deterioration.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 25 Nov
LD2511122188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1020 GMT
25 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 25 November (JANA)—Brother Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli this morning.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Denies Supplying Nerve Gas
LD2411152688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Nov (JANA)—A responsible source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has denied allegations that Libya supplied Somalia with nerve gas.

The source said: This news is completely fabricated and has no basis in truth. It comes within the framework of the campaign against the Great Jamahiriya.

The source also stated: Libya is one of the signatories of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the agreement banning the use and production of bacteriological, biological, and toxic weapons. It fully abides by these two agreements and other relevant international agreements and resolutions.

Supply to Somalia Denied
LD2411152388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1425 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Nov (JANA)—JANA's international affairs editor has derided the fabricated news, circulated by some Western media, primarily London radio and Voice of America, stating that the Great Jamahiriya had supplied Somalia with toxic gas.

The editor indicated: While we condemn such allegations, which have reached ridiculous proportions, we point out that these allegations are not outside the campaign of lies and disinformation which U.S. and British imperialist tools persist in circulating to attack the Great Jamahiriya and its pan-Arab and international role, which is opposed to U.S. imperialism. Therefore, we categorically deny the reports carried by the U.S. and British media that the Great Jamahiriya supplied Somalia with such toxic gases, gases which the Jamahiriya does not even possess.

Morocco

Diplomatic Relations With Iran To Be Restored
LD2511100688 Paris International Service in French
0630 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpts] An RFI [Radio France International] exclusive: Morocco is restoring its diplomatic relations with Iran. Our correspondent Farida Moha gave us the news only a few hours ago. She is on the line from Rabat:

[Begin Moha recording] The Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Iran have decided to restore diplomatic relations at the request, it seems, of the Iranian authorities. A delegation from this country is in Morocco at the moment. Embassies will be opened soon in the two capitals, but for the moment two charges d'affaires will be appointed.

This diplomatic pact, which appears to be a major development, should in principle mark the end of a long period of hostility between Iran and Iraq that have allowed Rabat and Tehran to resume [words indistinct], since as we know, Morocco always has supported Baghdad in the Gulf war.

Algerian Foreign Minister Stresses Coordination
LD2311205088 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT
23 Nov 88

[Text] Rabat, 23 Nov (MAP)—Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaïeh has emphasized his country's firm determination to strengthen consultation and coordination between Algeria and Morocco over issues of mutual interest to the benefit of the peoples of the Maghreb region.

In a cable to his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Filali, in reply to his cable of congratulations on Bessaïeh's appointment as foreign minister, the Algerian minister emphasized his country's determination to continue joint efforts to consolidate fraternal relations between the Moroccan and Algerian peoples.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Cuts Short Da'fur Tour Over Strike Call
EA2311195088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT
23 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned this morning to Khartoum, having cut short his tour of Da'fur, which was to have lasted for 5 days. Mr Al-Mahdi reached Al-Fashir yesterday, but returned today for a meeting with the Sudan Workers Federation concerning their demands and following their announcement of starting a general strike on 3 December.

60 Injured in Khartoum Clashes; Parades Banned
EA2311162188 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT
23 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov (SUNA)—The commissioner of the capital [words indistinct] on the incidents which took place in the capital during the Sudan Peace Parade, organized by the National Islamic Front [NIF] yesterday, to express support for the Armed Forces, condemnation of Garang's movement, and rejection of the peace agreement concluded recently between the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and Garang's movement.

The commissioner said the DUP and the NIF had both applied for permission to hold parades, the former for next Saturday [26 November] in support of the Armed Forces and the peace initiative, and the latter yesterday, in support of the Armed Forces and condemnation of Garang. He clarified that the Security Committee had studied the applications and decided to reject them. However, when the Sudan Peace Parade came out yesterday, the committee decided that it should be monitored by the police to ensure that it proceeded in a civilized manner. The committee did this in line with the precedent set when the DUP leader was received on his return from Addis Ababa following the signing of the peace agreement. The peace parade was to proceed [word indistinct] and then disperse.

The commissioner went on to say that (?groups) of southerners confronted the parade while it was moving. A shot was heard, which led to the scattering of [words indistinct]. The southern groups persisted in their confrontation with the parade. A number of pedestrians and citizens' vehicles were stoned, resulting in the injury of 60 persons. Three policemen and two civilians were hospitalized, while one member of the security forces is in serious condition.

AL-USBU today reported that the commissioner of the capital had stated that the commission's security committee had decided to ban rallies and parades in the capital in implementation of a decision by the Council of Ministers, and observance of the state of emergency and out of concern for the lives and property of the citizens.

SPLA Radio Appeals to People for Support
EA2311195288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Hello listeners and greetings to you in the name of your revolutionary armed struggle, SPLM/SPLA. As you might have heard, in the capital Khartoum yesterday there were demonstrations incited by the anti-peace party, the National Islamic Front—better known as the The Muslim Brotherhood. They called the recently signed accord an anti-Islamic move. They also said the accord was the business of Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Garang and had nothing to do with the Sudanese people.

In this respect, listeners, you should note that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Turabi are the only inciters of these innocent Sudanese students who denounced the recently signed Addis Ababa accord. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has always worked against peace—the peace that the people, whom he claims to lead, need. He must be reminded that the agreement signed between the SPLA and the DUP can never be destroyed, because the people are always there, watching him play his last cards.

I call on all patriotic Sudanese people—wherever they are—not to let Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his brother-in-law, Turabi, implement their repressive laws. You must back the DUP and other peace-loving political forces in the country, including SPLM/SPLA, because doing so will strengthen your position. If Turabi and Al-Mahdi are given the chance, they will destroy the country once and for all.

If Al-Mahdi was a peace-loving leader, he would have come with the DUP to Addis Ababa. His failure to do so proves that he was afraid of identifying himself with that important move, because scrapping the September laws was going to be one of the prerequisites. At this juncture, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi must know that the war will not end until we achieve our goals.

SPLA Radio Reviews 'Peace Initiative'

EA2311223388 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Compatriots, SPLA combatants in the field: Greetings to you all in the name of our revolutionary armed struggle, and welcome to this week's edition of your programme with the battalions.

Comrades-in-struggle, last week the people's hope for peace were raised with the signing of the Sudanese peace initiative by the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, and the DUP patron, Mawlana ["our lord"] Muhammad 'Uthman al-Sayyid 'Ali Mirghani, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and, as to be expected, the anti-peace people have been and are still working hard to obstruct the SPLM/SPLA-DUP peace initiative.

Right from the time the DUP-SPLM/SPLA dialogue was launched, the ummah and the National Islamic Front [NIF] leaders have not been feeling happy at all. Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Dr Hasan al-Turabi have always been looking for ways and means to obstruct it, but in vain. The first attempt by the two men to downplay the DUP-SPLM/SPLA dialogue was to announce their own alleged meeting with the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, allegedly to take place in Kampala, Uganda, in the middle of last month. Having failed in downplaying the SPLM/SPLA-DUP dialogue, the astonishing prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, announced a ban on any dialogue with the SPLA before the DUP leader could leave for Addis Ababa [for] talks with the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, the implication being that, if the talks fail, there will be no second chance. This ban was preceded by Dr Turabi's advice to his brother-in-law, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, that continued meetings with the SPLA by individual political parties would lower further the sagging morale of their soldiers, and he urged his in-law instead to concentrate on their common strategy, that is to deal with the SPLA militarily.

This talk of dealing with the SPLA militarily was what made some Sudanese point fingers of accusation at the NIF, accusing its members of attempting to assassinate the DUP leader, Mawlana Muhammad 'Uthman al-Sayyid 'Ali Mirghani, on 10th November 1988 as he was preparing to leave for Addis Ababa, an accusation that could not be lightly dismissed. Although the random shooting at Al-Mirghani's residence was aimed at scaring him away from meeting the SPLA leader, ironically it has strengthened the DUP's persistence in striving for an honorable peace for all the people of Sudan through dialogue with the SPLM/SPLA.

Seeing that the SPLM/SPLA-DUP talks did not fail, as they had wished, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his brother-in-law, Dr Turabi, now looked for other ways to try to

jeopardize the peace process. Just a day after the signing of the peace initiative by the SPLM/SPLA and the DUP leader, the anti-peace forces within the government army in Wau attempted to silence the voice of peace by shooting at the plane that was carrying Lt-Gen (Rtd) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, who has not only given his personal blessing to the peace initiative but that of his soldiers, who are actually facing the horrors of the war. The aim of those terrorists was to kill the defense minister and blame his death on the SPLA. Fortunately, although the plane was slightly hit, it did not crash and the defense minister and the accompanying delegation managed to land safely. All the same, the prime minister, who was eagerly waiting for any unfortunate situation to happen, jumped to blame the SPLA for the incident and accused it of a lack of seriousness for peace, an accusation which is totally unfounded.

It is to be noted that the movement has always been on record in encouraging dialogue with various peace-loving forces in the country and abroad, but it has always been the prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who has been mounting road blocks across SPLA's peace initiatives.

The latest move by the NIF to obstruct the present peace initiative by organizing public demonstrations is the most unfortunate one, which deserves condemnation of every peace-loving Sudanese. This move by the NIF is an obvious attempt to try to divide the Sudanese people on religious and ethnic lines. The forces of peace, unity, and prosperity for all should not give way to these prophets of doom.

The November 16th agreement between the DUP and the SPLM/SPLA, if implemented, is the only format that provides the Sudan with a way out of its current social, political, and economic problems. As one political analyst put it, and I quote: While Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been reduced to issuing war cries and the NIF is now widely seen as having more interest in pushing Islamic laws on the reluctant country than in the national welfare, only the DUP in the government ranks had the courage and the foresight to put aside partisan interests and respond to the countrywide aspirations for peace, unquote. We therefore urge the DUP and the other peace-loving forces in the country not to be deterred from their quest for peace. Do not give up the good thing.

Comrades-in-struggle: Before I leave the microphone, I would like to make some few comments as regards the 16th November peace initiative signed in Addis Ababa between the SPLM/SPLA and the DUP, which is likely to be misunderstood as a peace agreement and ceasefire. No. Do not allow your fighting spirit to drop because of the word agreement. The recent agreement signed in Addis Ababa is not like the 1972 Addis Ababa peace agreement between the Anya Nya and the government in Khartoum.

The present document now in front of the government of the day in Khartoum, and indeed in front of every Sudanese national, is entitled the Sudanese peace initiative, not the Sudanese peace agreement. I repeat. It is the Sudanese peace initiative that is before us now, not the Sudanese peace agreement. [passage omitted]

As you have just heard, there are prerequisites to be met before cease-fire and the national constitutional conference could be reached. These include the freezing of the September 1983 Islamic laws, the abrogation of the defense pacts concluded between Sudan and other countries and the lifting of the state of emergency. If these three prerequisites are agreed upon by the government and the parliament in Khartoum. It is from here, when the two sides, the SPLM/SPLA and the government in Khartoum, will sit down and agree on a cease-fire.

Otherwise, right now there is no cease-fire. It is important to note that this interpretation of the Sudan peace initiative of 16th November 1988 is not exclusively that of the SPLA.

The other signatory to the initiative, namely the DUP, holds precisely the same view of the initiative. In the aftermath of the recent Wau plane incident, none other than Mawlana Muhammad 'Uthman al-Sayyid 'Ali Mirghani himself asserted that a cease-fire was not yet in place. He meant that despite the accusations—unfounded, of course—that SPLA was responsible for the attack on the plane of the minister of defense, it should not be forgotten that there is no cease-fire. So, until cease-fire is reached between the SPLM/SPLA and the government in Khartoum, until then, Hawum Yastamirr ["Mortars will continue"]. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives During Tour of Arab States
JN2411145488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 24 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Manama from Doha today on a visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of several Arab states.

During the visit, 'Arafat will hold talks with Bahraini officials on current developments in the Arab arena, particularly issues related to the Palestine question in light of the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers. The talks will also deal with the popular uprising in occupied Palestine and Arab and international issues.

'Arafat was received by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister; Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Wafa Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain; and a number of officials.

Meets With Amir

JN2411163888 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, Nov 24 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here this evening PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation, now visiting the island. Current developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas were reviewed during the meeting.

The PLO leader briefed H.H. the amir on the decisions taken by the Palestine National Council in Algeria last week which also declared an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem its capital.

The talks also focused on the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied lands and the outcome of PLO chairman's visits to a number of Arab states.

'Arafat expressed appreciation and thanks on behalf of the PLO to H.H. the amir, the government and the people of the island for immediately recognising the newly born Palestinian state and continuous support to the Palestinian cause in various international fora.

H.H. the amir renewed Bahrain support to the Palestinian question and its blessing for the declaration of an independent state.

The audience was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and director of PLO office in Bahrain Wafa Nabhan.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Arrives 21 Nov
JN2111150488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1406 GMT
21 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Nov (WAKH)—Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel this afternoon arrived in Manama from Riyadh on a 3-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of a number of countries of the region.

The Maldivian minister carries a message for Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Maldivian President Abdul Maumoon Gayoom.

He was received upon arrival by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Visits Counterpart

JN2211130088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1213 GMT
22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 Nov (WAKH)—At noon today, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met with Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

Both ministers discussed bilateral relations and the latest events that took place in the Maldives. They also reviewed all issues connected to developments in the Arab and international arenas. [passage omitted]

Departs for Doha

JN2311133588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT
23 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 23 Nov (WAKH)—Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel left Manama today for Doha following a 3-day visit to Bahrain within the framework of a tour of the GCC states. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

During the visit, Jameel conveyed a written message to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. The message included the Maldivian Government's appreciation for the Bahraini support for the Maldives during the recent incidents resulting from the unsuccessful coup attempt carried out by mercenaries.

Jameel added that his current tour of the region is aimed at acquainting the GCC states' leaders with the recent developments in the Maldives and of the restoration of a normal situation. He pointed out that he held talks with the Bahraini foreign minister on bilateral relations, current Arab and Islamic issues, and issues of common interest.

PDRY

PLO's 'Arafat Visits; Discusses PNC Resolutions
EA2511040688 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Aden this afternoon for a visit of several days to Democratic Yemen. Brother Yasir 'Arafat told ANA that he is happy to be making this visit, which follows the PNC session in Algeria which ended with important, constructive, and historic resolutions. He described the resolutions as a turning point in the history of the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian people. He said they are in full harmony with the demands of our masses in the occupied territories, who are every day

intensifying their blessed uprising despite the increasingly brutal, barbaric, and fascist Israeli repression against our children, wives, people, and holy places, despite the bloodshed which has not stopped for a single moment in this long confrontation.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat said he would inform his brothers in command and the officials in Democratic Yemen on the proceedings of the PNC, and discuss the Palestinian and Arab moves in this historic period of the struggle of the Palestinian people and revolution. He said: I am happy to come to my brothers in Aden to discuss these crucial issues, not only regarding the Palestinian question but also the entire Arab nation.

He was met at the airport by Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, and officials at the PLO office in Aden.

Briefs Al-Bid on Session

*EA2511040988 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, this evening met the militant brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who briefed him on the outcome of the PNC's 19th session in Algiers and its most important decisions, primarily the historic decision declaring the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian territory with Jerusalem as its capital.

For his part, speaking on behalf of the YSP leadership and the revolutionary government, the brother secretary general hailed the decisions and results arrived at during the PNC session, saying he regarded them as constituting a new victory for the Palestinian revolution in its struggle to recover its rights. He stressed the support of the YSP, the revolutionary government, and the Yemeni people for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their brave uprising in the occupied territory, which our people will celebrate on 8 December, the first anniversary of the uprising.

USSR's Shcherbina, Delegation Travel to Shabwah
*EA2411141688 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] The Soviet Government delegation led by Comrade Shcherbina, Soviet deputy prime minister and head of the USSR Energy and Oil Bureau, arrived on a visit in Shabwah Governorate at noon yesterday to familiarize itself with the progress of the ongoing work in the oil prospecting project.

Immediately after arrival, the delegates visited a number of prospecting sites. They were accompanied on the tour by Brothers Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals; Dr Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, Central Committee member and Minister of

Industry, Trade, and Supply; Dr Ahmad Nasir al-Danawi, [words indistinct] of the executive bureau of the local people's council in the governorate; and a number of officials. [passage omitted]

Meet With Al-Bid, Nu'man

*EA2511050488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, this afternoon met the Soviet Government delegation led by Comrade Shcherbina, Soviet deputy premier, currently visiting our country. They discussed bilateral relations, with particular reference to cooperation between the two friendly countries in oil and oil industries and ways to develop that cooperation.

The brother secretary general praised the growing relations between our country and the friendly USSR, and Soviet support in the fields of oil and other mineral resources, in addition to training cadres and equipping them with knowledge and experience. The brother secretary general saluted the role of the Soviet and Yemeni experts and workers in expediting the exploitation of the oil resources, which will contribute to our national economy, improve the life of the workers, and strengthen the national democratic system.

For his part, Comrade Shcherbina lauded the successes achieved in this field. He stressed the Soviet Government's support for the measures which will contribute to accelerating the exploitation of oil and the development of our country's national oil industries.

The meeting was attended on behalf of the Yemeni side by Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Salih Abu Bakr Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier, and minister of energy and minerals; Dr 'Abdallah 'Uthman, member of the Central Committee and minister of industry, trade, and supply; and Dr Ahmad Nasir al-Danawi [name as heard], member of the Central Committee and minister of finance. For the Soviet side the meeting was attended by Comrades Dinkov, minister of petroleum industry; Kozlovskiy, minister of geology; and Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador in Aden.

Council Issues Decree on Oil Company Organization
*EA2311153688 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 23 Nov*

[Text] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has issued a Council of Ministers decree regarding the organization of the National Yemeni Petroleum Company.

It is provided in Articles I and II of the decree that the company will enjoy legal, (personal), financial, and administrative independence and will be under the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. Its headquarters will be in the Governorate of Aden and it will have the right to establish branches in the rest of the Republic's governorates. Article III limits the company to carrying out the general policies of the state in the fields of sales, transportation, and storage of petroleum, oil, fats, and any other petroleum products that enter its field of concern; in working out plans and programs to achieve its duties in a manner that agrees with our economic and social development and meet the demand of the local market for petroleum, fats and oils, and other petroleum products in its field of speciality; and in supplying the Republic's airports and ports with petroleum and related products, directly, through a dealer, or jointly with others.

The company will import all it needs according to the regulations of its assigned duties.

Qatar

Amir Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat 24 Nov
JN2411125888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1214 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 24 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, this morning received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, currently visiting Doha. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, attended the meeting.

QNA said talks dealt with the latest developments of the Palestine question on various levels in light of the resolutions issued by the PNC's recent session in Algiers. These resolutions include the document on proclaiming an independent Palestinian state. They also discussed ways to support and escalate the Palestinian people's heroic uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in order to resist the hateful Israeli occupation.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah reiterated Qatar's consistent position which always supports the Palestinian people and their just struggle in order to regain their legitimate rights under the PLO. Talks also dealt with the latest developments in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Defense Minister Leaves for Riyadh GCC Meetings
JN2211165788 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 22 (GNA)—Qatari Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani today left for Saudi Arabia to take part in the seventh meeting of the ministers of defence of the Gulf Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf due to open in Riyadh later today.

Shaykh Hamad was seen off at the airport by their shaykhs the ministers, the commandant of the police, the Saudi ambassador to Qatar 'Abd al-Muhsin Sulayman al-Zayid and other state senior civil and military officials.

The GCC defence ministers will discuss issues related to military coordination and cooperation and will raise their recommendations to the ninth GCC summit due to open in Manama, Bahrain, next month.

Yemen Arab Republic

PLO's 'Arafat Sees President; Discusses PNC Talks
EA2411105588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this afternoon the militant brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who briefed his brother the leader-president and secretary general on the outcome of the PNC session held recently in Algiers with particular reference to the historic decision announcing the Palestinian state.

There was discussion of developments affecting the Arab arena. The leader-president and secretary general stressed the continuing support of our country's leadership, government, and people for the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, as well as our support and backing for their overwhelming popular revolution—the revolution of stones—in the occupied Arab territory in order to regain their inalienable rights, primarily that of establishing their own independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

President Receives Omani Information Minister
JN2211152188 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, information minister in the Sultanate of Oman, who conveyed a message to the president leader from his brother, His Majesty Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, dealing with brotherly bilateral relations, ways to promote them, and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and Standing Committee member, and Brother 'Awad Mahfuz Ba Kathir, the Sultanate of Oman's ambassador in Sanaa.

Kamil Hanna's Family Wants Halt to Investigations
*JN2411094088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (WAKH)—The family of late Kamil Hanna, who passed away on 18 October as the result of a blow dealt by 'Udayy, son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, today requested President Saddam to stop investigations into the case.

In a message sent to the Iraqi president and published [publication not specified] today, Kamil Hanna's father said Kamil's family does not accept that history should record that Iraq failed the test it is experiencing.

On 21 November, President Saddam asked the justice minister to conduct investigations and try 'Udayy on charges of killing Kamil Hanna.

It is noteworthy that many writers, journalists, and politicians, in newspaper articles published yesterday and today, requested that 'Udayy's good conduct in the past years be taken into consideration so that it will work on his behalf. They also requested that 'Udayy be pardoned because he did not intend to kill Kamil deliberately but only meant to punish him.

Reportage on POW Exchange Agreement With Iran

Spokesman Issues Statement

*JN2411120088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—A Foreign Ministry official spokesman has stated the following:

Iraq and Iran reached agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Geneva to exchange sick and wounded POW's whose names are listed with the ICRC and who number 1158 in Iran and 411 in Iraq. This is to be followed by listing the names of the other sick and wounded POW's before 31 December 1988 and exchanging them.

It was also agreed with the ICRC that the exchange of the above number of sick and wounded POW's will be carried out in daily groups based on proportionality and reciprocity so that 115 POW's will be released in Iran and 41 in Iraq.

It was also agreed to begin the exchange on 22 November but the Iranian authorities postponed this exchange until 24 November. Today, when the exchange process began, an ICRC plane arrived in Baghdad carrying only 52 out of the 115 POW's that the Iranian authorities agreed to deliver in the first group. We learned from the ICRC circles that the Iranian side fabricated certain justifications and excuses which we categorically reject.

And according to the agreed proportionality and reciprocity principle, Iraq will only deliver 19 of the 41 POW's of this group and will continue to follow the same course in

releasing all groups unless the Iranian authorities strictly adhere to the agreement reached with the ICRC.

The method that Iran has employed in this matter reflects the policy of trickery and blackmail it pursues in dealing with the POW issue and all other issues relating to the Iraq-Iran conflict. Iraq, which has pursued a straight, clear, and well-meaning policy toward this humanitarian issue, will not be lenient where the rights of its POW's are concerned.

The spokesman appealed to the international community to pressure the Iranian regime to stop using blackmail and trickery in this humanitarian issue and to honor its pledges and respect the humanitarian international law, which clearly stipulates the full exchange of POW's, a law that Iran has so far not accepted.

52 POW's Arrive From Iran

*JN2411145788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1256 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Fifty-two Iraqi prisoners of war arrived in the homeland today on a plane from Tehran to Baghdad. [passage omitted]

The returning POW's were accompanied by a mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the party that has supervised the exchange of this group of POW's between Iraq and Iran.

Correspondents of newspapers, radio stations, televisions, and Arab and foreign news agencies were present to watch the arrival of the first group of returning POW's.

19 POW's Leave for Tehran

*JN2411152688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Nineteen Iranian prisoners of war, who constitute the first group of sick and wounded POW's and who, it has been decided, will be exchanged between Iraq and Iran, left Baghdad today.

The Iranian POW's were transported on board a special plane leased from the International Committee of the Red Cross. This is the same plane that carried the first group of Iraqi POW's earlier today. [passage omitted]

Ramadan on Iranian Opposition to Peace Agreement

*JN2311203288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Text] In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-MAJALIS, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan stated that Iraq will forbid the Iranian opposition to pursue its activities from its territory in the event a peace agreement is reached with Iran. He explained that if a peace agreement is reached that guarantees noninterference in domestic affairs, Iraq will ask the Iranian opposition to stay or go. Those who decide to stay in Iraq will have to pledge not to interfere in Iran's domestic affairs.

Observers note that if the Iraqis take such a measure, this will primarily affect the Iranian armed resistance movement, represented by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, which has been operating from Iraqi territory since June 1986.

On the question of borders between Iraq and Kuwait, Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that there is no problem between the two countries in this respect. He added: You will hear good news soon.

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives on 'Working Visit'
*JN2411123588 Amman Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] His majesty the king arrived in Baghdad today on a working visit which will include talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The talks are part of the consultations and coordination between the two leaders.

Upon arrival his majesty was accorded an official welcoming ceremony led by the Iraqi president. High-ranking Iraqi officials, including Iraqi Vice Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, members of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, and Iraqi ministers were also at the airport to welcome his majesty.

Vice Chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim returned to Baghdad with his majesty at the end of a visit to Jordan.

His majesty is accompanied on the visit by the prime minister and minister of court.

Upon departure from Amman earlier today, his majesty and Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim were seen off by his royal highness the crown prince and high-ranking officials.

Confers With Saddam Husayn
*JN2411182488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal have held a round of talks on the firm relations between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting them in all fields. The two sides also reviewed the Arab situation, particularly the historic resolutions the PNC declared on 15 November. They stressed their recognition of the independent Palestinian state and their support for the PNC resolutions. They also stressed the need for joint Arab action to support them in the international arena.

The talks also dealt with the situation in Lebanon and the need for action to restore its unity, stability, and security, and to enable it to perform its duty in the general Arab interest.

President Saddam Husayn and his guest, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, also discussed the need to reactivate joint Arab action with the objective of tackling urgent issues and reaching serious Arab decisions in this regard.

Attending the talks on the Iraqi side were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the President's Office, and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a special luncheon in honor of His Majesty King Husayn. Members of the two sides attended the luncheon.

Departs 24 Nov
*JN2411184888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1723 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left Baghdad today following a short visit to Iraq.

His majesty was accorded an official farewell headed by President Saddam Husayn. Also present to bid farewell to the king were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member; the head of the President's Office; ministers; the Iraqi ambassador in Amman; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Ba'th Party Official Returns From Chad Visit
*JN2411124088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0853 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] 24 Nov (INA) [Dateline as received]—Hasan 'Ali, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, returned to Baghdad from Ndjamena today after leading a party delegation to the celebration held in Chad on signing a reconciliation agreement between the Chadian Government and the Chadian National Front, which took place in Baghdad last week.

Hasan 'Ali accompanied a delegation of the Chadian National Forces from Baghdad to Chad to participate in the celebrations held on this occasion. The party delegation also participated in the second conference of the National Union for Independence and Revolution which opened yesterday.

During his visit, Hasan 'Ali met with a number of Chadian officials in Ndjamena and discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

Foreign Ministry on 'Arafat, Palestinian State
TA2311190888 *Jerusalem Domestic Service*
in English 1800 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem say there is a strong possibility that U.S. immigration regulations will prevent Yasir 'Arafat from being issued an entry visa to the United States.

Foreign Minister Peres briefed the Inner Cabinet today on 'Arafat's planned visit to the United States, and on Israel's position regarding the PLO. Peres said Israel is attempting to forestall a UN General Assembly decision to grant the PLO permanent observer's status. More from Arye O. Sullivan:

Israel's Foreign Ministry has relayed to the United States that Yasir 'Arafat was personally involved in at least two terrorist attacks in which the PLO murdered Americans. According to a ministry official, this information will prevent U.S. immigration authorities from granting 'Arafat the entry visa he seeks in order to address the United Nations in New York. The official cited 'Arafat's role in the murder of two American diplomats in Khartoum in 1974, and the hijacking of the "Achille Lauro" cruise ship 2 years ago, during which a U.S. citizen was killed, as reasons why the United States could deny an entry visa.

Foreign Ministry officials also said today that the international reaction to the PNC declaration was in line with their expectations. An official said the PLO only gained territory in public relations, and noted that no Western country had decided to recognize the Palestinian state. The officials said they had predicted somewhere between 50 and 60 countries to recognize the state, but so far only 44 have done so, this being mainly Arab and Third World countries. Egypt's recognition of the PLO state on Sunday, however, has caused some great concern among some Foreign Ministry and government officials. The Foreign Ministry says that there is no doubt that Egypt, by recognizing the PLO state, has broken with the spirit of the Camp David accords which stated that the final status of the territories was to be decided by bilateral negotiations. Nevertheless, the Foreign Ministry said today that Egypt's action will have no effect on the Tabah border dispute, and views it as a separate issue. Legal advisers from Egypt and Israel have already met in Washington to discuss the border change, and ministry officials said it was basically agreed that a timetable for the implementation of the arbitrators' decision will be formulated by the end of the month.

Mubarak Message Assures Continued Ties, Peace
TA2411114088 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1100 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] In a message to Foreign Minister Peres, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak assures him that despite the differences on the issue of the PNC decisions, his country will continue to promote ties between the two countries.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the message also stated that Egypt will continue maintaining peace, which is vital to both Israel and Egypt. The message was relayed to Minister Peres by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni.

Chinese Travel Agency Opens Office in Tel Aviv
TA2311200788 *Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew*
1900 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] A representative of China Travel Service, a Chinese travel agency, will take permanent residence in Israel next January. The representative, Tsui Yongyang [name as heard], arrived in Israel this evening and held a news conference in Tel Aviv with the director of a large Israeli travel company where the Chinese representation will be located.

The representative emphasized that the opening of the office was merely a commercial project, and one should not attribute any political significance to it. At the same time, he hopes this will presage the extensive development of tourism between the two nations.

Moshe Savir, the director of the Israeli company, believes several thousand Israelis will visit China as early as next year. At the moment, Israelis may visit China only in organized tours.

Labor Party Announces Halt to Talks With Likud
TA2411174988 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
1700 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel from Labor Party Headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] Just a few minutes ago 'Uzi Bar'am, Labor Party secretary, announced the following decision of the Labor Party Bureau: The Labor Party Bureau has determined that there is no basis for negotiations with the Likud over the establishment of a new government, and opening of any negotiations in the future will require the approval of the Labor Party Bureau.

This is the announcement. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who this evening pushed again for a national unity government with the participation of both Alignment and Likud, gave his interpretation of this decision after leaving the meeting. He said he sees no restriction to continuing what was begun, provided it is the Likud that initiates it.

Earlier, during the session itself, Defense Minister Rabin said it would be a mistake to make a decision as the Soviet Politburo does, whereby it would be forbidden to talk with the Likud. There is no room for such a decision unless the Alignment wants to close the door to every option. Those who think that the opposition can save the country should see what has happened to the Labor Party in Britain. Referring to the Likud, the defense

minister said: A peace treaty was signed with an Arab country, and it is to somebody's [Begin of the Likud] credit; we should not lose our perspective.

During the session, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the following: I am again suggesting that we do not sever contacts with the Likud if we want a continuation of the political process. If the Labor Party is invited for talks, we are not at odds with anybody; we can definitely talk.

As previously stated, the Labor Party Bureau has made its decision. We have learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir may invite Labor Party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin for a discussion on the establishment of a broad-based government in the wake of the current situation in the coalition contacts. Such a meeting has not been arranged yet, but it surely seems possible. It is also not clear when such a meeting will take place, if it does indeed, but in the meantime the Labor Party Bureau meeting has ended with Yitzhaq Rabin saying he sees no restrictions to continuing what was begun.

Further on Discussions

TA2411201688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Peres will meet to discuss the establishment of a broad-based government. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the talks will be held over the weekend or at the beginning of next week. The exact date will be determined tomorrow morning. E

Earlier, our political correspondent reported on rumors that the two would meet this evening to discuss the establishment of a Likud-Alignment government without the small factions.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

2 Injured in Territories

TA2311201388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to military sources, two people were injured today in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Arab sources reported seven people injured, including two children: a 4-year-old in Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, and a 7-year-old in a village in Janin District. [passage omitted]

Gaza Woman Dies From Shot

TA2411113688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] A 50-year-old woman from the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza was brought dead on arrival to the Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza at 1000 today. The people who brought the body fled from the hospital. A physician determined that the woman was killed from a bullet wound in her head.

The IDF spokesman reports that there was no military activity there at that time, and there have been no reports of such activity in the area in which the woman lived. The body was transferred to the forensic institute to determine the cause of death.

Nazareth Resident Detained

TA2411203888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] The director of the Misgad Hashalom library in Nazareth was detained this evening by a special police team of the valley's subdistrict on suspicion of having plotted to murder Jews.

Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports that after gathering much intelligence information the police raided the house of the director of the library. The police found numerous cassettes he had distributed in the Arab villages containing a call to kill Jews at Prophet Muhammad's behest. This evening the suspect admitted to all charges attributed to him.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown about an hour ago at the district court building in Jerusalem located on Salah al-Din street in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the bottle smashed one of the windows on the top floor, entered the office of Justice Dalya Dornier, and caught fire. Fire broke out in the justice's office, but there were no casualties.

Raids on 'Terrorist' Targets

TA2511132088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets north of Sidon today at noon. All planes returned safely to their bases. A large ammunition arsenal was destroyed.

Foreign correspondents report from Sidon that the raided positions belong to Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] organization. No reports of casualties have been received so far.

AL-DUSTUR Notes King Husayn's BBC Interview
JN2511115588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Nov 88 p 15

["Text" of interview with King Husayn by BBC reporter Madihah Rashid al-Midfa'i on 24 November; place not given]

[Text] Question: Your Majesty King Husayn, perhaps one of the most important repercussions of the uprising and the Jordanian disengagement decision is the PNC declaration in Algiers of Palestinian independence and recognition of Resolution No 242. It is no secret that your disagreement with the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat was because of the PLO's refusal to recognize this resolution. This position prompted you to suspend coordination with the PLO. Indeed, your decision to disengage relations with the West Bank was a decision to bury what the West and Shim'on Peres like to call the Jordanian option. Now, how do you conceive Jordan's role in any peace efforts?

Answer: First, I will go back to the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. I believe we are now working and standing on solid ground. Our brothers have true confidence in and are aware of our real intentions. We have not for one day aimed at control or hegemony, but have always sought to fulfill our duty toward our kinfolk and brothers to help them regain their rights on the soil of their homeland. Therefore, I have great hope that the stage of doubts, uncertainty, and confusion has gone for good. At the same time, cooperation and coordination between us is complete now. Supported by the recent PNC position, the PLO is the sole Palestinian side responsible for representing the Palestinian Arab people. Since the outset, we have acknowledged that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. Naturally, if we are to discuss an international conference—the means to achieve peace with the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people—Jordan has a role too, given that it is a confrontation state and faces the longest border with Israel. Sisterly Arab countries also have a role in an international conference. Coordination between us and our brothers in the PLO is continuous. I am very happy with the results of the latest conference in Algiers. I am also proud of the responsible position of our brothers as it serves the cause and places it within its correct framework. It also places others in this world, led by Israel, before their responsibilities toward peace—the demand of everyone in this world.

Question: In an interview I conducted with Mr Yasir 'Arafat in Algiers a few days ago, he said that his future projection of the relationship with Jordan is a confederation. When he proposed this idea to you in Al-'Aqabah you said that the issue was still premature. Now, after the

declaration of Palestinian independence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, will a confederation be your future visualization as well?

Answer: When we were discussing confederation in the past, we wanted it as a means to enable the PLO to occupy its natural position in the international conference. Naturally, the picture has now changed as a result of the disengagement decision on the one hand, and the recent [PNC] decisions. The PLO's position is maintained, especially after the Algiers decisions, which we support, appreciate, and consider a great accomplishment. Our relations are close. As for future relations, I believe they will be stronger than ever. Naturally, the relationship between the Palestinian Arab people and the Jordanian Arab people is distinguished and special. We hope that we will soon witness the emergence of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. Then, if this is the wish of our brothers, a confederation is one of the objectives we may be able to achieve at a later stage, when people will be left to decide what they wish.

Question: What is Your Majesty's assessment of the Israeli reactions to the PLO's recognition of Resolution No 242?

Answer: I believe it has been a rigid reaction to a large extent. I also believe that the Palestinian position has been flexible, positive, and responsive to the wishes of everyone in the world. We expect it will have its impact in this world which I believe should apply pressure to bring about the required response to this stand. I have had wide experience in tackling this issue in particular. I followed up the formulation of Resolution No 242. Jordan and Egypt accepted the resolution at the time. This resolution stipulates the impermissibility of the seizure of the land of others by force and maintaining it as a result of the war. The resolution also mentions the other dimension—the right of all to live in security and peace.

The resolution also mentions the issue of refugees which, within the new framework, has become the issue of repatriation and compensation. The truth is that the groundwork is solid and firm. The major points consist of the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 which call for an international conference and the denunciation of terrorism, and talks about an international conference and the emphasis placed on it as a means for us to attain a just and comprehensive solution that we and our future generations will accept. The PLO and the Palestinian side has offered all that could be offered, and all that the world has been asking it to offer over the past years. The ball is now in the court of the other side, and the world should appreciate the steps made by the PLO and the PNC. The world also should admit that the Palestinian side adopted a responsible position, acted in a responsible and positive manner, and that its position was honorable and constructive.

Question: Your Majesty, it appears that you are optimistic with respect to George Bush and what he can do.

What are Your Majesty's expectations with respect to the new positions the U.S. Administration will adopt in the near future?

Answer: I expect there to be emphasis on the Middle East cause early next year for many reasons. One of these reasons is that the USSR—a superpower—and the United States—another superpower—have reached the conclusion that the arms race cannot continue, not to mention the state of tension the world has experienced as a result of this arms race and the rivalry that existed between the two superpowers. As a result of this, we recently noticed that the question of weapons has been tackled, starting with the issue of medium-range missiles. I believe these efforts will continue. There has also been emphasis on hot issues such as Cambodia, Afghanistan, the Iraq-Iran war, and Namibia. In this important part of the world, in this area—important in terms of the available oil resources and in terms of its location—there is the Middle East issue, which is the most dangerous of all. This conflict not only threatens the peoples in the region but world peace, also. It is illogical that this issue remains unsolved. I believe that its turn has come. The dialogue between Washington and Moscow continues. I hope that the new U.S. Administration will devote its attention to this issue. We hope that this will take place with the Soviet Union's cooperation and the participation of the other UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the conflict within the framework of the international conference, and with the participation of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, on an equal footing.

Question: Your Majesty, do you see a way for Syria to join Arab endeavors for peace in light of the sharp differences between Damascus and the PLO?

Answer: I believe Syria will take its place at the international conference as a principal party to the conflict in this region. Syria's position is not different from our position regarding the international conference and the circumstances that should prevail in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in this part of the world.

Question: What are the circumstances in the Jordanian economy which caused a reduction in the value of the dinar?

Answer: Our story from the very beginning has been one of confrontation of challenges. Praise be to God, we have not sold out and will not sell out an inch of land nor an iota of the Palestinian people's right to their national soil or of the Arab rights to any part of the greater Arab homeland. In fact, we are experiencing a period of some constraint. Perhaps this is one of the simplest challenges which has thus far been posed to us and to this country.

Question: Is it a transient crisis linked to the grave political situation in the region?

Answer: In fact, it is a transient crisis and we are fully confident we will easily overcome it. It has given our country's sons the feeling that once this crisis is overcome we must do the impossible in order to henceforth

stand on our feet without needing to rely on anyone else in the future. Praise be to God, almost a miracle has been achieved, considering our march through a difficult period. In fact, or for example, Jordan's debts, whether debts linked to development or in terms of what we have achieved on our land—given that our wealth in all this is the Jordanian citizen—or regarding the military aspect, the magnitude of these debts is generally much less than what we expected in terms of the fulfillment of obligations by the brothers who extended aid to us in the past 10 years. This excludes Saudi Arabia, which has thus far fulfilled all of its obligations. As for other states, there is a great diversity. Some have not extended any aid at all while others extended as much as they could.

At any rate, this is the size of the problem and we will do the impossible to overcome it. We believe the efforts being exerted now—we have exploited wide international experience in this regard—have made us believe that we could not have taken more measures than those we have taken. All measures taken will eventually lead to an end to the crisis and we will overcome this difficult phase. We will then achieve self-sufficiency with God's help.

'Source' on Meditation Between Egypt, Syria
JN2511131088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1205 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from an Arab diplomatic source in Amman that Jordan is attempting to bring Egypt and Syria closer, from the premise of uniting the Arab ranks and the importance of Egypt's role in the Arab nation. These sources did not exclude the possibility that Damascus may carry out a step similar to the one made yesterday by Algeria when it restored diplomatic relations with Cairo.

Jordan's King Husayn who visited Damascus last Tuesday will visit Egypt in the next few days. An authoritative source stated that this visit is part of consultations, cooperation, and attempts to unite Arab ranks. One of the first signs of Syrian-Egyptian relaxation is the praise by a Syrian Government source yesterday of Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state. The source viewed this as a positive step which has taken place in spite of Israeli pressures.

Arab diplomatic sources in Amman say that Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state is an implicit abandonment by Cairo of the Camp David accords concluded between Egypt and Israel which led to the severance of relations between Cairo and most of the Arab countries. It is worth mentioning that these accords mention autonomy for the Palestinians but not an independent state.

The sources added that media campaigns between Egypt and Syria were suspended at the beginning of November. Jordan was the first Arab country which had severed relations with Egypt on 1 April 1979 and was the first

Arab capital to resume diplomatic relations with Cairo in February 1984. Jordan also played an effective role in the Arab summit in Amman in November 1987, the summit which granted Arab countries the freedom to resume relations with Egypt according to their laws and constitutions.

Sources Clarify Report on Al-Rifa'i 'Resignation'
JN2311144888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
22 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] To clarify the report published on the front page of AL-SIYASAH yesterday, 21 November 1988, on the resignation of Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, sources close to His Majesty King Husayn have said that the report on the resignation is incorrect. In their denial of the news, these sources expressed fear that Jordan might be exposed—through the publication of such news—to a campaign, which might be an Israeli one, to affect the Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement, whose positive signs emerged in the Al-'Aqabah meeting and during and after the PNC session in Algiers.

During their clarification, the sources said that Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i enjoys the confidence of the Jordanian monarch. They noted that such news was propagated to public opinion in the past but was not officially denied because it was baseless.

The sources affirmed that Jordan—like any other country—is governed by firm rules and traditions to change and form governments according to the political circumstances dictated by the country's interests. In light of the current circumstances, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i enjoys his majesty the king's confidence. As head of the government, Zayd al-Rifa'i is considered the man of the current stage as well as the coming stage in which the Palestine question will enjoy a prominent Jordanian concern on which all rapprochement efforts are focused in the interest of the cause and its people.

Al-Khasawinah on 'Arafat Visit, U.S. Position'
JN2411133088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Qatar from Aden today. He is expected in Amman within hours to meet with King Husayn before leaving for New York.

A short while ago, our Amman correspondent Randa Habib put a number of questions to Jordanian Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah. The first was connected with 'Arafat's expected visit to Jordan and whether it indicates Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to crystallize a future joint move. The minister replied:

[Begin recording] [Al-Khasawinah] In fact Amman is open to all Arab brothers, including brother Yasir 'Arafat. We do not need sensational headlines but are at the disposal of the Palestinian brothers. The Palestinian cause is our first cause in Jordan. In every meeting between us and our PLO brothers, the climate of unity prevails and previous doubts from which we suffered are dissipated. Mr 'Arafat's visit must be linked to the Algiers PNC decisions, which we in Jordan welcomed. We will reaffirm what we have already announced in both the open and official meetings; namely, that we will place all the experience of the Jordanian state, its status, and its reputation at the service of the Palestinian cause and at the disposal of the Palestinian brothers, whom we always welcome.

[Randah Habib] It was observed that despite PLO recognition of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, the U.S. reactions were negative. What is Jordan's comment on this?

[Al-Khasawinah] Jordan's comment is embodied in the U.S. television network ABC's [as heard] Face the Nation program—conducted following the PNC resolutions—in which his majesty devoted all his statement to the soundness and positive aspects of the Jordanian position and the Palestinians' response to the requirements of the international conference and just peace. All of this has given King Husayn international prestige and status. His Majesty King Husayn clarified the sound Palestinian position and the Arab support for this position, given Jordan's well-known historical connections with leaders of the U.S. Republican and Democratic parties and Jordan's friendship with U.S. President-elect Bush and its weight with a number of new U.S. Administration officials. Jordan will continue to explain the positive elements in the Palestinian and Arab positions and we will continue to do so. [end recording]

Sa'd Claims Information on Wingler's Kidnappers
NC2311180088 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT
23 Nov 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 23 (AFP)—A political leader in south Lebanon claimed on Wednesday to have information which could identify the abductors of Peter Wingler, a 32-year-old Swiss Red Cross worker kidnapped here a week ago.

Mustafa Sa'd, the head of the Popular Nasirite Organization, said he also had "preliminary indications" on where Mr. Wingler was being held, but he gave no details.

On Monday, the International Committee of the Red Cross appealed in Geneva for Mr. Wingler's "immediate release" and a Red Cross communique hinted that the organization could suspend its work in Lebanon.

The ICRC, which has 31 Swiss delegates and 100 Lebanese employees in Lebanon, channels food and medical aid to victims of the 13-year-old civil war, helps to mediate in conflicts, and investigates the cases of missing persons and prisoners held by rival militias or the Israeli Army.

Fifteen foreigners are missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon, including Mr. Wingler. An additional nine French and Belgians are held separately by an extremist Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal.

Appeal to Fadlallah

NC2511064088 Paris AFP in English 0629 GMT
25 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 25 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross has asked Moslem fundamentalist leader Shaykh Muhammad Fadlallah to try to free one of its kidnapped delegates, the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY reported Thursday.

Swiss ICRC official Peter Wingler, 32, was taken hostage eight days ago in the southern Lebanon city of Sidon. No one has claimed responsibility for the abduction.

The agency said ICRC official Michel Dufour had visited Shaykh Fadlallah at his Beirut home to ask the pro-Iranian leader to intervene. Shaykh Fadlallah had condemned all kidnappings and especially those of aid workers.

All ICRC activities in and around Sidon have been suspended temporarily following the abduction. [passage omitted]

'Awn Issues Denial of Alleged Visit to Israel
NC2411131788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1230 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister's office has issued the following statement: Damascus Radio has put out a story—copied by some Lebanese media services—that His Excellency Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has visited Israel and held meetings with a number of Israeli officials.

While totally denying this report, the prime minister's office finds it strange that an official radio of an Arab state should resort to broadcasting such false reports, which are then picked up by other media services. Whenever the need arises, this radio propagates positions and comments that are considered cheap lies. Its objectives and motives are known and no longer deceive anyone.

'Arafat Suspends Attacks Against Israel
NC2511101588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] THE MIDDLE EAST REPORTER, the daily bulletin, reports that the Fatah movement in Lebanon has received instructions from its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, to stop launching attacks against Israel from southern Lebanon. These instructions are part of the efforts being made to gain more support for the independent Palestinian state.

The bulletin adds that pro-Syrian fedayeen might step up the attacks against Israel from Lebanese territory in a bid to counter the PLO's efforts in this respect.

Israeli Military Strikes Against Palestinians

Palestinian Positions Hit

NC2511122588 Paris AFP in English 1222 GMT
25 Nov 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 25 (AFP)—Israeli jets mounted a raid Friday on Palestinian positions near this southern Lebanon port city, police said.

The warplanes twice bombed positions northeast of Sidon, in a region that is home to some 100,000 Palestinians.

It was the second Israeli raid on the Sidon area in four days.

There were no immediate casualty reports.

3 Killed, 7 Wounded in Raid

NC2511124088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided positions east of Sidon at 1400 today. The enemy warplanes also raided a position manned by the Popular Liberation Army—the Ma'ruf Sa'd forces in Al-Bramiyah. According to security sources, the raid against the Al-Bramiyah area left three martyrs and seven injured.

Planes Raid Area Northeast of Sidon

NC2511121388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1211 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] A report received from the south a short time ago states that two Israeli planes carried out a raid against the area to the northeast of Sidon. According to one news agency, columns of smoke rose from the targeted area. We will supply you with more details if we get them during this newscast.

Israeli Reconnaissance Sorties

NC2411131388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew intensive reconnaissance sorties over the South and the camps this morning. Lebanese nationalist and Palestinian positions were put on alert as a precaution against any possible aggression.

Meanwhile, the nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh in the mountain came under heavy-caliber machinegun fire from the positions held by 'Awn's militia in Al-Villat and Galerie Khayrallah shortly before 1400 today.

'Violent' Clashes Last 2 Days

NC2511065388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] There have been violent confrontations over the past 2 days between resistance fighters on one side and Israeli forces and agent Lahd's militia on the other on the Al-Qantarah, Wadi al-Saluqi, and Qabrikha lines in the central sector and the Anan-Jabal al-Ghuzlan line in the Jazzin-al-Rayhan area.

Meanwhile, Israel has brought motorized reinforcements and artillery pieces to the occupied border strip and pounded the liberated areas with large-caliber shells.

According to information from western Al-Biq'a, a group of resistance fighters carried out a wide-scale attack on a position held by Lahd's militia in Jabal al-Ghuzlan in the Jazzin area 2 days ago. A 30-minute clash involving the use of machineguns and rockets ensued between the resistance fighters and the men manning the position. The fighters destroyed the position, damaged two vehicles, and killed or wounded four militiamen. The militiamen retaliated by opening artillery fire and searching the adjacent liberated areas.

Planes Break Sound Barrier

NC2511112488 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1120 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Zionist warplanes flew over Beirut, breaking the sound barrier at 1200 today.

Hizballah-Amal Forces Clash, Negotiations Stall

Amal Source on Fighting

NC2411173588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Fighting has erupted in the southern suburb of Beirut after a short truce that went into effect last night. Intensive contacts have been underway to end the tension in the southern suburb following clashes that took place in the past 2 days.

A security source in the Amal Movement has reported the following: To complete the consultations and meetings of the security committee under the patronage of the Syrian Arab Forces, designed to calm the situation and allow life to return to normal in the southern suburb, a meeting was held at the office of Syrian Captain 'Ali at 1630 today. Major Hikmat of the Syrian Arab forces was present, and representatives of the Amal Movement and Hizballah also attended the meeting. During the discussions, the conferees and the inhabitants of the Al-Ghubayrah and Al-Shiyah areas were taken by surprise when Hizballah men launched a fierce attack against Amal Movement posts. The Amal Movement wishes to state these facts to our kinfolk and public so that they may be aware of these actions by Hizballah groups, who have grown accustomed to violating the security of our kinfolk and their property in the suburb.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has held consultations with the security commands in the Amal Movement and the Syrian Arab forces in a bid to calm the security situation. He urged Amal members to exercise self-restraint and not to be led off course by the sedition which others have fomented in various ways and for reasons that have become well known to all our people.

Consultations Break Down

NC2411182588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Violent clashes between Amal and Hizballah have been continuing in the southern suburb since 1700 today. The fighting is concentrated along the Al-Shiyah, Hayy Mu'awwad, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, and Al-Ghubayrah Lines. All types of rockets, machineguns, and artillery are being used. In the meantime, tension prevails throughout the quarters and streets of the southern suburb.

Consultations among various parties, including the Syrian Arab forces, resulted in two cease-fires at 1730 and 1900, but these did not hold. Clashes soon flared up

again after each cease-fire. Amal sources noted that it was Hizballah that did not abide by the cease-fires. Hizballah members continued to fire machineguns and rockets at Amal posts and residential areas.

According to the latest reports, in the evening Amal fighters succeeded in storming Hizballah positions on the outskirts of Hayy Mu'awwad. They occupied a number of buildings where Hizballah gunmen were stationed and from which they were firing at streets and buildings opposite.

Update on Area Skirmishes

*NC2411195888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Excerpts] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah are continuing in the southern suburb. According to the latest reports, the Amal Movement has massed forces in the Al-Qantari area and the Syrian forces in the interior positions in the southern suburb have been alerted and placed on combat readiness status.

Security sources have noted Syrian vehicles at the Al-Shiyah Circle, in the Al-Raml al-'Ali area, and at the airport traffic circle.

Hizballah sources this evening accused the Amal Movement's regular army of attempting to advance toward Hizballah positions in the southern suburb. These sources linked today's clashes with the assassination attempt against Hizballah leaders in the Al-Biq'a'. They said that these clashes are part of the same plan, which is aimed at striking at the Islamic line.

Amal sources, however, have denied Hizballah accusations and asserted that the Hizballah leadership has brought reinforcements from Al-Biq'a' to exacerbate and torpedo the situation, whereas the Amal leadership is seeking to calm down the situation. [passage omitted]

Amal source said that Amal fighters have cut the Al-Ghubayrah-Mar Mikha'il Road behind the Ministry of Water and Electricity Resources building in the direction of the Al-Tayyar Church and broke through Hizballah positions in Hayy Mu'awwad, thus regaining positions that they had lost in previous battles.

A Hizballah source said that there has been a long-range bombardment from an unidentified source and denied that Hizballah positions have been stormed.

Our correspondent reports that clashes are raging in the Al-Musharrافیyah area, Hayy Mu'awwad, and on Al-Hajjaj Street, where a large number have been killed or injured on both sides. He said that indiscriminate shelling in the Al-Shiyah area has left two civilians dead and three others injured, and added that big fires have been seen in the area.

Knowledgeable sources said that Hizballah representatives have withdrawn from the joint committee after accusing the Syrians of facilitating the passage of Amal Movement gunmen.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, told REUTER this evening that he will go to Iran as quickly as possible to discuss the issue of the southern suburb and to seek a halt to the fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah once and for all.

Clashes Abate; Intermittent Firing

*NC2411210588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the southern suburb abated this evening after a cease-fire agreement was reached effective as of 1900. Some security sources, however, have reported that intermittent machinegun fire is still continuing. A Hizballah source has said that the party has decided to halt fire unilaterally. The source denied that there had been any progress or change in military positions.

The Amal Movement's Information Bureau announced that efforts to stop the fighting are being intensified on directives from Minister Nabih Birri, Shaykh Shams al-Din, and Mufti Qabalan. Birri meanwhile continued his efforts and consultations on the security situation in the southern suburb with the movement's leaders and the Syrian forces. He called on the movement's members to refuse to be led off course by sedition.

6 Killed, Scores Wounded

*NC2511060288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] Guarded calm prevails in Beirut's southern suburb and in some areas of West Beirut after a cease-fire between the Amal Movement and Hizballah went into effect and after the Syrian forces deployed in the areas which were the scene of violent clashes. Six people were killed and scores of others wounded in yesterday's clashes, which also caused heavy property damage. [passage omitted]

Syrians Deploy in Suburb

*NC2511071088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 25 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] The war in Beirut's suburb has not abated completely, despite the midnight deployment of Syrian forces as in the areas which witnessed the clashes. The Syrian deployment followed grinding battles between Amal and Hizballah fighters, which left 6 dead and 12 others wounded. The fighting spread to a number of West Beirut neighborhoods for the first time since the Syrian troops entered there on 1 February 1987.

According to the latest reports received this morning, skirmishes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are continuing in the Al-Musharrafiyah, Al-Ghubayrah, and Al-Shiyah areas, and particularly in Hayy Mu'awad. [passage omitted]

Casualty Toll Updated

NC2511104788 *Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT*
25 Nov 88

[Text] Beirut, Nov 25 (AFP)—Six people were killed and around 20 injured, according to a partial hospital toll issued Friday after the worst outbreak of violence between rival militias in the Lebanese capital for six months.

The fighting between militiamen from the Syrian-backed Amal and pro-Iranian Hizballah flared late Thursday in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs and rapidly spread to Shi'ite districts in Moslem West Beirut.

It had reportedly died down by Friday morning.

Some of the heaviest fighting was reported around the home of Amal chief Nabih Birri. An anti-tank rocket hit the house of the movement's executive chief Ayyub Humayyid, but no casualties were reported, police said.

The street battles were the fiercest since the Syrian Army was deployed in the southern suburbs to separate the rival Shi'ite Moslem forces last May.

Syrian troops took advantage of the lull on Friday to take up positions they had abandoned during Thursday's fighting. Police said Shi'ite militia were still present on the streets and at entrances to buildings.

Cease-Fire To Be Imposed

NC2511121488 *Beirut Voice of National Resistance*
in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A state of guarded calm prevails on the combat axes of the southern suburb. The joint Security Committee ended its work at 1215 today. Calm is continuing despite some bursts of small-caliber automatic weapons' fire and a limited clash that took place in the airport area, which the Security Committee contained immediately.

The Security Committee convened today at 1100 under the chairmanship of Major Hikmat from the Syrian Arab forces. Ahmad Ba'labakki, of the Amal Movement, and 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, of Hizballah, attended the meeting. The committee agreed on a cease-fire at 1200, but failed to implement it. This committee then agreed on a second cease-fire at 1230, which apparently has a greater chance of success than the first.

The committee also decided to form field subcommittees to follow up the deployment of the Syrian Arab forces and the withdrawal of gunmen after the cease-fire goes into effect.

The situation remained tense during the period shortly after midnight last night until noon today. The sound of occasional rocket and gunfire was heard in the area of Al-Sahil Hospital in Al-Ghubayrah. A heavy deployment of gunmen was reported. It also was reported that the gunmen deployed in Burj al-Barajinah this morning. A security incident had taken place in this area between bodyguards of Shaykh Hasan Trad and Hizballah gunmen. The Syrian Arab forces contained this incident.

Another security incident took place this morning in the Al-Quntari area, which also was contained as a result of various contacts. The security quarters made efforts to withdraw gunmen from the streets in the Burj al-Murr, the Red Cross, and Clemenceau areas. [passage omitted]

Bomb in Al-Husayni's Office

NC2511090088 *(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon*
in Arabic 0845 GMT 35 Nov 88

[Text] Security sources in West Beirut have reported that an explosive device detonated in the office of Husayn al-Husayni, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, in the Chamber's old building in Al-Najmah Square last night. The blast destroyed the office.

New Cease-Fire Agreement

NC2511123288 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
1130 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] After a period of guarded calm lasting approximately 20 hours [as heard] beginning at 0230 today in accordance with a cease-fire agreement reached between the warring parties, tension returned to Beirut's southern suburb at noon today, when the security situation suffered a sudden setback in Harat Hurayk, where clashes involving the use of all types of weapons raged between Amal Movement and Hizballah. It was later learned that these clashes ceased at 1300.

Gunmen have deployed in the areas of Al-Basta Al-Tahta, Al-Bashurah, Riyad al-Sulh, Al-Musaytibah, Mar Ilyas, and Al-Mazra'ah. Security sources have reported that Hizballah gunmen have intensively deployed in the area around the house of Shaykh Hasan Trad. The sources said that Hizballah gunmen tried to storm Trad's house in Hayy al-Miqdad in Beirut's southern suburb last night. The house guards confronted them and a 15-minute clash ensued. The Syrian forces then intervened and ended the clash, in which no casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, the joint Security Committee meeting ended at 1200 today.

The Amal Movement has issued a statement saying that an agreement on a new cease-fire has been reached. It also has been agreed that the Syrian Arab forces will deploy in the areas of tension once they are determined. The statement accused Hizballah gunmen of violating the cease-fire when they opened sporadic bursts of gun fire and fired a rocket at the Airport Road. Amal emphasized to its gunmen not to retaliate and to abide by the cease-fire.

In another development, an explosive charge placed on the outside air conditioning unit in Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni's office in the Chamber's original building in Al-Najmah Square, went off at 0300 today. The explosion caused light damage to the office. Acting on an authorization from Speaker al-Husayni,

Chamber Secretary General Ihsan Abu Khalil inspected the damage to the office this morning. It transpired that the explosive device was a small one, and the damage was light. He gave orders to repair the damage.

6th Brigade Supports Amal

*NC2511141588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Hizballah has publicly accused 6th Brigade soldiers of participating in the fighting and the storming and counter-storming operations between Amal and Hizballah. Hizballah maintained that the 6th Brigade has been changed into a militia fighting alongside the Amal Movement. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Position on Palestinian State Lauded
JN2411175288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Replying to a question posed by our radio on Syria's reaction to the Egyptian Government's recent step of recognizing the independent Palestinian state, a high-ranking Syrian official told me that Syria views with satisfaction the Egyptian Government's recent step of recognizing the independent Palestinian state.

The high-ranking Syrian official added that Syria considers the statements made by some Egyptian officials in which they stressed Egypt's commitment to the Collective Arab Defense Pact as a positive development regarding Egypt's commitment to Arab issues despite Israel's attempts to impose its will on Egypt according to the Camp David accords.

Observers have recently noted that the official Syrian media have stopped criticizing the Egyptian Government. Observers also noted that the campaign of criticism that has almost continuously been launched for several years by the Syrian media against the Egyptian Government has recently stopped. This, in itself, means a Syrian satisfaction with Egyptian stands and steps. [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Minister Sees Iran's Ambassador
LD2211053588 Tehran IRNA in English 0512 GMT
22 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 22, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Aktari met with Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar' here Monday night. Tehran-Damascus relations and issues of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting.

Reportage on PRC Parliamentary Delegation Visit
JN2311201488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] A delegation from the PRC National People's Congress headed by Liao Hansheng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee, arrived in Damascus this evening. The delegation was received by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah; Shakir Sa'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; a number of People's Assembly members; and the secretary general of the assembly. The delegation was also received by the PRC ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Upon arrival, Liao Hansheng made a statement in which he praised the friendly ties between Syria and the PRC. He asserted that the PRC is very proud of its friendship

with Syria. He said: We came to this good country, Syria, with a sincere desire to increase understanding and strengthen friendship between the two countries. We hope we will be able to contribute our share in strengthening the Syrian-PRC friendship through this visit.

Round of Talks Held
JN2411203888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] A round of talks was held this morning between a People's Assembly delegation under Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah and a delegation of the PRC National People's Congress led by Liao Hansheng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee.

The two sides expressed deep satisfaction with the mutual popular support of each other's progress, freedom, and construction. They emphasized the need to build on existing cooperation in the parliamentary front both bilaterally and internationally. They also agreed on the need to exchange expertise and visits and to coordinate their positions on matters of joint interest. Liao Hansheng emphasized his country's desire to reinforce ties with Syria in the countries' common interests.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1900 today received the PRC delegation with the head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly and the PRC ambassador to Damascus in attendance. The prime minister explained the overall progress made in Syria in the economic, social, and cultural spheres under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Liao Hansheng outlined to Al-Zu'bi current developments in the PRC, expressing his country's desire to reinforce ties with Syria in various fields.

Earlier today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Liao Hansheng and his delegation.

Dinner Speeches Exchanged
JN2511093588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Liao Hansheng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress, has lauded the important role Syria is playing in resisting imperialism and colonialism.

In a dinner banquet hosted in his and his accompanying delegation's honor by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, Liao Hansheng also hailed the efforts exerted by the Syrian Arab people under Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad to realize the important achievements Syria enjoys. For his part, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah reviewed the history of Syrian-PRC relations based on struggle against colonialism, imperialism, and Zionism.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Charge Summoned on Returning 'Martyrs' *LD2300183600 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari* 1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistan embassy in Kabul was summoned today at 1500 hours to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following points were made to him by the acting directorate of the First Political Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Following up on the previous protest to Pakistani authorities by the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the downing of a Antonov-26 transport plane belonging to the Republic of Afghanistan—which martyred 28 passengers, including women and children as well as five crew members—this ministry once again declares the strongest protest by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan to the responsible authorities of Pakistan concerning this inhumane action.

As a result of repeated contacts by the families of those martyred during this mishap asking for the delivery of the bodies according to the Islamic practices and traditions of the Afghan society, and requesting the ministry to seriously ask Pakistani authorities to take urgent action for the return of the martyred bodies. Therefore, we once again draw the attention of Pakistani authorities to produce necessary explanation and pass on the result to the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Tortured Bodies Reportedly Found Near Towr Kham *LD2311185988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari* 1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] An Armed Forces' source reports that in the course of operations by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan near Towr Kham and Daka, the bodies of 70 people—whose identities have not yet been established—were (?found) in the Saraycha region. The report adds that the corpses had been placed inside plastic bags and cartons. Investigators concluded that the bodies, after torture, were hanged. It states that the hands and feet of some of them had been chained and a (?chemical) substance was used on their faces. This substance makes the establishment of their identity difficult. A number of the dead were wearing loin-cloths, customary clothing in Pakistan; some wore trousers, and some wore breaches and shirts. The cartons in which the bodies had been placed come from (word indistinct) in Pakistan. The report adds that the cartons appear to have been in the possession of the extremists, who are supported by the Pakistani Armed Forces, before the mopping operations began. Evidence near where the bodies were found indicates that the bodies had been transferred from Pakistan to the Saraycha region of Towr Kham. Further investigations have been stopped due to continued armed interference and military operations in the area.

Islamabad Radio Reports Mujahidin Successes *BK2411161488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu* 1500 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, fighting continues between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime troops. The mujahidin occupied four military posts during operations near (Qille Qazi) in Kabul and killed 26 Kabul regime troops. The mujahidin carried out various operations near (Najtala) and in Qandahar city area last Sunday [20 November], killing 28 Kabul regime troops. Three tanks, four vehicles, four heavy machineguns, one rocket-launcher, and six military posts were destroyed.

According to a report, the mujahidin shot down a military gunship and a military transport plane in (Qal-Qandahar) last Sunday.

Najibullah Receives Province Delegates, Senators *LD2411032088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto* 1530 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received delegates and senators from Badakhshan, Takhar, Konduz, and Baghlan Provinces this afternoon at the presidential office.

At this meeting, Esteemed Najibullah briefed them on the political and military situation in the country and he described the duties and responsibilities of the delegates and senators in implementing the national reconciliation policy. The delegates and senators then promised their complete cooperation in restoring peace and security in their respective regions.

Sharq Meets With RSFSR Transport Minister *LD2311074188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English* 0421 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 22, BAKHTAR—Doctor Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of Republic of Afghanistan, met Yuriy S. Sukhin, minister for motor transport of Russian S.F.S.R. in his office on Sunday. In the meeting they exchanged views about the expansion of road transportation in Republic of Afghanistan.

UN Good Offices Mission Receives 128th Notice *LD2411031488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari* 1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's liaison office with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that Afghanistan has given its 128th note to UNGOMAP regarding blatant Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords.

This note details the dates and locations of 14 violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. The dispatch of weapon and ammunition convoys—including surface-to-surface missiles—from Pakistan to the opposition groups is a blatant violation of the Geneva accords, particularly the provision embodied in Document No 1, Paragraph 3.

The note asks UNGOMAP to investigate these blatant violations by Pakistan and to convey the result as soon as possible to the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

129th Notice Submitted

LD2511080088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 24, BAKHTAR—129th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords was submitted today to UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

In the notice, the attention of UNGOMAP was drawn to the coarse and inhuman action of the Pakistani Armed Forces and militias during their attacks on Towr Khan and Saraycha.

The notice asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general.

India

Gandhi on Pakistan Election, PRC, Other Issues

BK2411162788 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Report on speech by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi inaugurating the 7th Congress of the Afro-Asian Peace and Solidarity Organization in New Delhi on 24 November]

[Text] The prime minister said that India looks forward to working with the elected democratic government in Pakistan in settling the irritants which have harmed and jeopardized relations between the two countries in the past. He said we are following with interest the outcome of the elections in that country. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was inaugurating the 7th Congress of the Afro-Asian Peace and Solidarity Organization in New Delhi this evening. He said there is a mutual affinity and affection between the peoples of the two countries and India desires that this relationship is used in setting the tone of future relations between New Delhi and Islamabad.

The prime minister expressed optimism about his visit to China next month and hoped that it will establish a relationship between the two countries commensurate with the contributions the two civilizations have made to

world history. He said the visit will establish the role which the two countries must play as the two largest nations in Asia and the world.

The prime minister broadly reviewed the international scenario with particular reference to the region during his 35-minute speech and said there are many encouraging signs in spite of deep rooted problems.

Mr Gandhi was loudly cheered by delegates from over 80 countries attending the conference when he warmly congratulated the PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, for declaring independence for the people of Palestine. He said a lasting and peaceful solution to the West Asia problem can be found only through an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations with participation of all concerned.

Mr Gandhi expressed happiness over the manner in which large numbers of voters in Sri Lanka defied empty threats of terrorists and cast their votes in the provincial elections to the north and east council. He said it is a matter of gratification that India assisted in averting a coup inspired from outside to overthrow a democratically elected government in Maldives.

On Burma, Mr Gandhi said we support the aspirations of the people there for a democratic polity.

Welcoming the emerging trends in the relationship between the nuclear powers and the INF Treaty, Mr Gandhi said a time bound program is required for phasing out nuclear weapons. He called upon the international community and the Afro-Asian nations in particular, to take note of these changes in international relations. He urged all countries of the world to strictly enforce comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa and warned that if the international community does not act now, South Africa will face a blood bath.

Pakistani Envoy Views Relations, Nuclear Issue

BK2411162188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] A seminar was held in New Delhi on Pakistani elections and Pakistan-India relations. Pakistan Ambassador Naiz A Nai, addressing the seminar, said that Pakistan and India can establish a lasting relationship of peace and cooperation by creating for themselves an environment of stability and security. He said that both countries should make mutual assurances that they do not pose a threat to each other. The ambassador said that both countries should examine the idea of making a binding declaration renouncing the manufacture or acquisition of nuclear weapons. Efforts to declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone should be supported, and a system of mutual inspections of all nuclear facilities should be evolved on a bilateral basis.

Foreign Secretary Leaves PRC Following Talks
BK2511085888 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, has left Beijing for home after holding preparatory talks on the forthcoming visit of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to China.

Mr Menon met the Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, and other senior officials to finalize the preparations for the summit. Mr Wu said China regards Mr Gandhi's visit as a great event in the history of Sino-Indian relations.

Bomb Blast Kills 3, Wounds 2 in Kashmir
BK2511155488 Hong Kong AFP in English
1535 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Jammu, India, Nov 25 (AFP)—Three people died and two others were injured when a powerful blast rocked a village in Jammu and Kashmir State near the frontier with Pakistan, officials here said Friday.

News of the blast came as officials in Jammu, the state's winter capital, disclosed that seven Indian soldiers have been reported missing in Indian-held Kashmir, scene of three conflicts with Pakistan since 1947.

The explosion, late Thursday at Sudhpora village, 500 kilometers (310 miles) from the summer capital Srinagar, was reported by an Indian border patrol, officials said.

Witnesses said the blast was powerful enough to leave cracks on seven dwellings in the area.

Officials in Jammu believed the five casualties were pro-Pakistani Kashmiri Moslems who were trying to sneak into Indian Kashmir with a bomb that suddenly exploded.

Authorities have alleged that Pakistan is sending trained Kashmiri Moslems into Jammu and Kashmir to create trouble in India's only Moslem-majority state. The area has been disputed by both countries for four decades.

The seven Indian soldiers missing since November 13 had been on guard duty along the Keran sector of the line of control set during India's third and last conflict with Pakistan, officials said.

Abdul Gani Lone, chairman of People's Conference, a regional opposition group, alleged Friday that the missing soldiers were Sikhs who had deserted the Indian Army and crossed into Pakistani Kashmir.

Sikhs in neighbouring Punjab State have been waging a bloody campaign for independence from India. Pakistan rejects New Delhi's claim that it is aiding the rebels.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, in 1947 and 1965. It was also the scene of fighting during the war that led to the creation of Bangladesh, formerly east Pakistan, in 1971.

2 'Terrorists,' 5 Others Killed in Punjab
BK2411040088 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces last night near Nawagaon village in Patiala District. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them. Terrorists shot dead five persons near Sangrawali village in Jullundur District last night. The victims were traveling in a three-wheeler.

Iran

Majlis Speaker on U.S. Approach to Hostage Issue
LD2511105688 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT
25 Nov 88

["Iran Ready To Help Release Western Hostages If United States Reciprocates"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today accused the United States of dishonesty in her peace claims and doubted Washington's sincerity in its pledge to maintain security in the Persian Gulf.

"If you are really honest in your claims, why don't you act against Iraq which is openly impeding the peace talks (with Iran) and is committing all crimes against its Turkish [as received] population?" he asked the American officials. He further castigated the U.S. parliaments for failing to condemn Baghdad for its inhuman use of chemical weapons against civilians.

Addressing a huge crowd of Muslims here at Tehran University campus and its nearby streets, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also substitute leader of Friday prayers, said the United States was trying to approach the Islamic Republic of Iran for resumption of diplomatic ties and the release of its hostages in Lebanon but regretted that it was falsely portraying Iran as the party favoring the rapprochement.

He said the former American President Jimmy Carter's recent letters to Imam Khomeini and to the speaker himself on the hostage issue was an attempt on the part of Washington to pave the way for resumption of relations with Tehran.

"Our position, however, is clear. As the Imam pointed out our relation with you is that of a lamb with a wolf... and the hostage issue too has nothing to do with us. We have said as long as the United States does not correct her behavior, there could be no relations between us."

In his letter to Imam Khomeyni the contents of which were disclosed in Tehran last Saturday, Carter said the hostage issue was a major obstacle in the way of resuming friendly ties between the two countries.

But Imam Khomeyni denied there was any link between Iran and the hostage issue, further stressing that there could be no reconciliation between Tehran and Washington.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the reason he had delayed the disclosure of the contents of Carter's letter to him was because he was preparing a reply to it.

He also said Iranian diplomats had been kidnapped by Phalangists long before the Americans were taken hostage and criticized Washington for taking no action to free them from the captivity of "your servants." He said the United States backed the Phalangists in Lebanon and could therefore not claim it had no influence among them.

"If you have good-will and want honest resumption of ties, why do you (continue to) block our assets amounting to billions of dollars, and why do you refuse to give us back the weapons we have paid for?"

Addressing American officials, he said if defending hostage-taking was a sign of terrorism, then "you are symbol of state terrorism." Referring to U.S. crimes against Iran in the Persian Gulf, including its navy attacks on Iran's oil rigs and passenger plane (which killed some 300 innocent people), Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "How could we imagine relationship with you despite all these crimes?"

He however said if the United States helped secure release of Iranian hostages in Lebanon, Tehran would reciprocate Washington's good-will by trying to save the American hostages.

Further on Friday Prayers

*LD2511114288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Nov 88*

[Text] In his Friday prayers sermons in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the movement of all groups and officials toward complete unity.

Heeding the advice given by the imam of the ummah in this connection, he referred to the arrival of the IRGC's Week of the Mobilization of the Deprived, saying: Mobilization is the secret of the revolution's steadfastness, of the Iranian nation's victory, and also of the despondency among the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the anniversary of the epic written by the Navy men in their battle against the aggressor Iraqi forces and their routing of the Iraqi Navy in this battle in the northern Persian Gulf, the acting commander in chief remarked: If there is security in the Persian Gulf today, this is due to the powerful presence of the Iranian Navy.

In connection with the decrees of the Palestine National Council [PNC], the Majlis speaker emphasized that the issue of recognizing the regime occupying Jerusalem and forgetting about armed struggle against that regime cannot be accepted by any Muslim. Iran opposes these two points in the PNC decrees which ignore the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered that [former U.S. President] Carter's letter to him and to the imam of the ummah constituted begging from a position of strength [geda'i az moze'-e qodrat]. He said: We are not hostage-takers, nor do we seek to establish relations with the United States.

Majlis Speaker Discusses Mobilization Forces *LD2411122388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Excerpts] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Majlis, has offered his congratulations to the imam on the occasion of anniversary of the formation of the 20 million-strong mobilization army.

Speaking at today's session, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani offered his thanks to the mobilization forces, which have played an effective and special role during 8 years of war. He then referred to his highness the imam's message on the occasion, adding: The best way to praise these great men has come in the message of his highness the imam. [passage omitted]

Stressing the fact that all instruments and resources must be provided in order to strengthen this institution, as well as to appreciate the mobilization forces' efforts, the acting commander in chief referred to the responsibility of the Majlis and the IRGC in this connection. He said: We must not imagine that the philosophy behind the existence of the mobilization forces relates to the war issue.

Referring to the fact that we have not yet been relieved of the war and that we are still faced with obstructionism by the Iraqi Ba'athists, the acting commander in chief said he can still see signs of bad faith coming from the supporters of Iraq. He added: The principle mission of mobilization forces is war. The mobilized youth must build themselves up during this quiet period in order to be prepared to repel any possible danger. The members of the mobilization forces must rejuvenate their strength. [passage omitted]

Questions Iraq's Peace Commitment

*LD2411215788 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov 25, IRNA—Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday that Iraq's commitment to peace is questionable and that therefore Iran must be militarily ready for coping with fresh attacks from that country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was talking at the concluding day of a seminar of Basij para-military troops at the Azadi stadium here said that the Basij is not a military force for fighting but one for preventing a war.

The speaker of the Iranian parliament said that one cannot be too confident of the end of the war yet since "the Iraqi Government does according to the orders of the superpowers."

He said also that the enemies of Iran have designs on the Islamic Republic and may be tempted to "try their lot" any day.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it clear that whatever the future developments, the Islamic Republic will never start a war.

Elsewhere in the seminar Minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps 'Ali Shamkhani in his speech to the audience at the stadium reflected on the military buildup of the Iraqi Government since the acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 by Iran in July and concluded that based on all evidence the Iraqi Government does not look for peace with Iran.

Khomeyni Appoints Musavi To Deal With Disabled
LD2411135088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] In reply to a letter from Mr Karrubi, supervisor of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs' Foundation, requesting the establishment of new organizations to attend to the affairs of the revolution's disabled, Imam Khomeyni has sent a letter of appointment [hokm]. Praising and thanking officials and employers of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs' Foundation, the letter appoints Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to be the official in charge of establishing such organizations and of attending to the affairs of the disabled. The text of the imam of the ummah's letter of appointment to the prime minister includes the following details:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

His Excellency Mir Hoseyn Musavi,

Esteemed Prime Minister:

May God assist you. Some time ago, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Sheykh Mahdi Karrubi sent a letter requesting that the office for handling the affairs of the disabled from the Islamic revolution and the imposed war be entrusted to the Martyrs' Foundation or to other organizations in order to attend more closely and better to the affairs of the disabled and the families of the martyrs. Being greatly appreciative of and thankful to Your Excellency and all officials and employers of the Islamic Revolution's Martyrs' Foundation and the foundation's medical center, and most notably Mrs Karrubi who displayed utmost selflessness and self-sacrifice

toward these dear ones under war circumstances, I appoint Your Excellency as the person in charge of administering all affairs of the dear disabled so that you may direct your efforts toward setting up new organizations concerned with this and great holy deed by drawing on the cooperation and experiences of the Islamic Revolution's Martyrs' Foundation and the disabled, and also by devoting to this task the best facilities of the Foundation of the Deprived. It is hoped that through the piety, knowledge, and commitment which I know are qualities you possess, you will attend fully to all the affairs of these epic-makers and live martyrs of the revolution, and that the Islamic revolution's Martyrs' Foundation too, just as in the past, will pursue attending to the affairs of the respected families of the martyrs, the missing-in-action, and the POW's, with peace of mind and greater facilities.

As there may be some individuals these days who wish to plant doubts and insinuations in the minds of the people about the serving government to harm your relentless and tireless efforts—especially on the issue of the war—it is necessary for me to mention the point that I consider you a capable and caring person for the Islamic revolution. I will not forget the efforts you made during the period of the war to equip [tajhiz] the troops of Islam. I endorse and support you now, too.

As the leaders of the state and the consultative team [hey'at] for the reconstruction of the country will be presenting to the government over the next few days the principles and policies for reconstruction, Your Excellency and the esteemed Cabinet members should attend to the matters of the country's reconstruction with strength, decisiveness, and full independence. Repairing ruins and attending to the deprived should top the list of your tasks. The dear people of Iran, too, who have placed all they have at the disposal of Islam and the service of the Almighty, should note that they have a long way to go before they achieve real independence. Everyone knows this. Noting that there is much ruin and destruction, people should not expect that everything will be reconstructed very quickly. We are still at the beginning of a long road. Carrying out the reconstruction and eliminating difficulties will require years and the efforts and struggles of all officials, people in charge, and the dear people of our Islamic homeland.

There may be biased individuals who are against the revolution, who have not been able to injure Islam and the revolution by any means. Today they may wish to achieve their sinister objectives within the framework of slogans, by raising the people's level of expectations and by pointing their fingers at those difficulties that are the consequences of several years of imposed war. They may wish to turn people pessimistic toward officials and to make propaganda in the vein that since the resolution has been accepted and there is no war, why are problems not being solved? These people should be asked: It is possible to carry out this task so simply. Has our country

been freed from blockades? Can all the damaged electrical facilities, industries, and oil centers be repaired and made operational in a day, so that we should be able to say: Yesterday there was war so excuses were valid, but today there is no war so why do shortages exist.

Of course, my saying such things is a reminder to the faithful; otherwise, the devoted and revolutionary people of our country are ready, more than ready, to tolerate these things and to make sacrifices in order to achieve true independence and self-sufficiency. I am certain that the people of Iran would not for a minute exchange their independence and honor for 1,000 years of comfortable life and affluence in dependency on foreigners and aliens.

In conclusion, I once again thank my good friend, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi for his caring and sincere efforts. I hope that all those who have served the disabled and crippled from the imposed war will cooperate sincerely with the prime minister.

May God Almighty grant success to patience and selflessness on the path of Islam. May God grant you peace and have mercy upon you.

24 November 1988

Musavi Letter Appreciates Support

LD2411192088 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 24, IRNA—In reply to Imam Khomeyni's support for Prime Minister Musavi here today the prime minister in a letter appreciated his support for his cabinet. Musavi said the imami's good views of his cabinet is an encouragement to his ministers, and inspires them with fresh impetus for serving the needy people. The prime minister also paid tribute to disabled combatants for their acts of self-sacrifice.

On Thursday the imam also appointed Musavi in charge of disabled combatants, and commissioned him to oversee the formation of an organization in charge of disabled combatants, a function previously undertaken by head of the Shahid [martyrs] Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi.

Khomeyni Message on Mobilization Forces

LD2311191688 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] On the eve of the anniversary of the establishment of the mobilization of the meek, Imam Khomeyni, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, has issued the following message:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The formation of the mobilization forces in the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran was definitely one of the pronounced blessings of God, a blessing He bestowed on the dear nation of Iran and the Islamic revolution of Iran.

During the varied events of the post-revolutionary era, particularly after the war, there were ample organizations and institutions that, through self-sacrifice and martyrdom-seeking, provided insurance for the country and the Islamic revolution. However, if we intend to show a true example epitomizing pure self-sacrifice and love in God and Islam, there is none more deserving than the mobilization forces and their personnel.

The mobilization forces are an immaculate branch and a stout tree whose blossoms have the fragrance of the springtime denoting a joining with God, of the freshness of exactitude [yaqin], and of the story of love. The mobilization forces are the school of love and the seminary of unknown martyrs whose followers have sung out the psalm [azan] of martyrdom and bravery. The mobilization forces are the pilgrimage of the barefooted ones and the elevating point of pure Islamic thought the trainees of which have earned fame through being unknown. The mobilization forces are the army of God's most faithful troops, whose book of establishment has been signed by all the strugglers [mojahedin], from the first one to the last.

I always envy the faith and purity of the mobilization forces. I always ask God to make it possible for me to meet with them because in this world my only pride is that I myself am a member of the mobilization forces.

Once again I bring it to the attention of the entire great Iranian nation and their authorities that whether in war or in peace, it would be the most simplistic manner of thought if we believe that the world-devourers, and specifically the United States and the Soviet Union, have left us and dear Islam alone. We should never remain ignorant of the deception of the enemies, even for a moment.

Enmity and hatred toward the pure Muhammadan Islam abounds in the natures of the United States and the Soviet Union. We must be armed with the steely weapons of patience and faith in order to break the waves of conspiracies and all kinds of mischief. All the members of a nation that treads the path of pure Muhammadan Islam and that is against arrogance, materialism and fossilized pseudo-faithfulness, must be members of the mobilization forces. They all must learn the necessary defensive and military techniques because at the time of danger only the nation in which the majority of people have the necessary combat preparedness emerges proud and immortal.

To summarize, it must be said that if the beautiful thought of mobilization is cast upon a country, the enemies and world-devourers will remove their covetous eyes from that country; otherwise, every moment may bring an unhappy event.

The mobilization forces must, as in the past, continue their work forcefully and with full assurance. One of the most necessary organizations today is the mobilization

of the university and seminary students who must employ all their power to defend the revolution and Islam in their own areas. My mobilized children must be guardians of the unchanging neither East nor West principle in the universities and seminaries. Universities and seminaries today are in need of unity and unanimity more than any other institutions.

The children of the revolution must never allow the agents of the United States and the Soviet Union to infiltrate these two sensitive institutions.

This important feat can be achieved only by the mobilization forces. The ideological problems of the mobilization forces are entrusted to these two scientific bases. The religious seminaries and universities must place the framework of pure Muhammadan Islam at the disposal of all the members of the mobilization forces.

The mobilization forces of the world of Islam must consider establishing the great Islamic government. This is a feasible achievement because mobilization is not confined only to Islamic Iran. Nuclei of resistance must be created all over the world; one must stand up against the East and the West.

In the imposed war, it was proven that it is possible to make Islam the conqueror of the world through correct management. You must know that our mission has not come to an end. The Islamic revolution in the world is in need of our self-sacrifice. Responsible authorities can prove to all truth seekers that one may have a life free and peaceful without the help of the United States and Soviet Union, but they can prove it only by relying on your support. Your presence on the scene works to remove the roots of counterrevolution in all their dimensions.

I kiss the hands of each individual one of our pioneers of liberation. I know that if the responsible authorities of the Islamic regime neglect you, they will be burned by the fire of God's inferno.

Once again, I stress that any negligence to set up the 20 million strong army will entail our falling into the trap of the two world superpowers.

I thank all the mobilization forces, particularly their dear commanders. I never will neglect to pray for these faithful children of Islam. May God give the blessing of proximity with the scion of the prophet to all the dear and unknown martyrs of the mobilization forces. May God also cure the dear members of the mobilization forces who are disabled and may He return the POW's and the missing safely to their homes. May God increase the glory of this popular institution, made up of the followers of God. Greetings to God.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 23 November 1988

Khamene'i, Rahmani Meet Mobilization Commanders
LD2411093988 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—The assembly of Basij [mobilization] (volunteer) forces commanders opened at the present [as received] of President 'Ali Khamene'i, civil and military officials and foreign military attaches at Tehran's Azadi Stadium Thursday.

Addressing the gathering, head of the Basij forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani reiterated Imam Khomeyni's message on the occasion of Basij Week (starting next Saturday), in which he stressed that the Basij must be more active.

"The Basij was not formed only for the sake of the war, rather its role is to defend Islam, the interests of Muslims and stand against satanic powers," Rahmani said.

He said imperialist powers will not be able to attain their goals and damage the Islamic revolution of Iran. Even the United States and the USSR together were unable to weaken the Islamic revolution, he added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani warned against probable plots of imperialism at time of peace. "Even in the reconstruction era the enemies of the Islamic revolution may hatch plots. Therefore, the Basij forces must maintain their alertness just like war time and follow the guidelines of the imam."

The president, who is head of the Supreme Defence Council, in his address said the basij is a must for the Islamic revolution of Iran and "it should not be neglected for even a minute." He reiterated that the nation's defence capability must always be maintained to thwart any plots.

Efforts to further organize the Basij forces "must continue vigorously and this popular organization must be in close ties with the Islamic revolution's Guards Corps and thus insure the Islamic revolution of Iran against any plot."

On the Iraq-Iran peace talks, the president said Iraq had proved its dishonesty in the negotiations but was not able to start the war again.

"The Baghdad regime due to debts, internal problems and political disgrace will not be able to fan the flames of the war. However, the Iranian Army should maintain its combat readiness," he stressed.

First Iraqi POW's Depart for Baghdad
LD2411083288 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—Fifty-two Iraqi prisoners of war left Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Thursday morning in the first stage of an operation to repatriate all sick and disabled POWs in Iran and Iraq.

The group, including 49 soldiers and three officers, left for Baghdad after the completion of medical examinations by the Red Cross.

A group of 41 Iranian POWs are expected in Tehran this afternoon.

According to an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross earlier this month, Iran and Iraq will initially repatriate all registered sick and injured POWs numbering 1,569 in total.

By the end of December all unregistered ill and injured prisoners would also be interviewed by the ICRC and sent home.

A member of the committee in charge of Iraqi POWs told IRNA that the repatriation of ill and injured POWs, who were registered two years ago, will be completed in ten stages, with Iran releasing 115 and Iraqi 41 prisoners at each stage.

But a number of Iraqi prisoners have asked for political asylum and a number of others have overcome their illness, as verified by the Red Cross. Therefore they would not be eligible to return to their country.

In today's group, 15 POWs asked for asylum and 21 had already been given asylum. In addition, 27 were no longer considered ill or disabled.

The prisoners were re-examined by two Swiss doctors from the ICRC with the help of an Iranian doctor and Iraqi military doctor who was captured in the war.

Before boarding their flight to the Iraqi capital, the remaining 52 were each given a holy Koran and Persian handicrafts as gifts from the Islamic Republic.

When completed, the exchange will be the biggest ever between the two. Since the war began with Iraq's invasion of Iran in 1980 Iran has released about 800 and Iraq 650 POWs. The last exchange of 25 Iraqi and 72 Iranian POWs, including Iranian civilians, took place in October.

During the war over 100,000 were taken prisoner by both sides. In peace talks with Iraq after the ceasefire which came into effect on 20 August, the Islamic Republic has called for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iranian territory before a full prisoner exchange.

19 POW's Arrive; 22 Withheld

*LD2411172688 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—Of the 41 disabled Iranian POWs scheduled for release today only 19 arrived here at 18:15 local time (14:45) GMT. Iraq did not give any reason for withholding the other 22.

Earlier today Iran released 52 disabled Iraqi POWs, 49 soldiers and three non-commissioned officers. The next batch of POWs will be exchanged on November 26.

The two countries are to swap a total of 1569 sick and disabled POWs as per the understanding reached during the last round of peace talks at Geneva.

Geneva Agreement 'Violated'

*LD2411173288 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In an interview with our reporter in Mehrabad Airport, the prime minister's deputy and the head of the POW committee referred to Iraq's refusal to release 22 Iranian POW's. He said: With this action, Iraq has violated the Geneva agreement. The Islamic Republic of Iran's position with respect to the continuation of the exchange of POW's will be announced.

150 More Iraqi Kurds Seek Refuge Across Border

*LD2311192688 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT
23 Nov 88*

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Another batch of 150 Iraqi Kurds, mostly women and children were forced across the border into Islamic Iran by the Ba'hist regime in power in Baghdad.

Local officials said the Iraqi Muslims from Al-Sulaymaniyah who made a several hour trek in the cold weather to the Now Sud border zone have sought refuge with the Islamic Republic.

Thousands of Kurds have been forced to migrate to Iran and Turkey due to the regime's chemical chemical [as received] in northern Iraq.

Possible Shevardnadze Visit Discussed in Moscow

*LD2411104288 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—The future visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to the Islamic Republic was discussed in a meeting between Iranian and Soviet Foreign Ministry officials in Moscow Wednesday.

The Foreign Ministry's Public Relations Office said the head of the European Department Mahmud Va'ez and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bes-smertnykh conferred on the visit and other issues of mutual interest in a "constructive atmosphere."

"The two sides welcomed continued talks between Iran and the Soviet Union and expressed hope that relations between the two countries would expand and deepen."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official also met with the deputy metals minister, calling on the Soviet Union to expand the Esfahan steel plant which was built with Soviet help.

The two sides agreed to cooperate for increasing the plant's output to its nominal capacity of 1.9 million tons a year. It was also agreed to expand its facilities to enable an annual output of 4 million tons, the Public Relations Office here added.

"The Soviet side promised to assist and cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in expanding future steel projects," it said.

Velayati Rules Out Relations With Egypt

*LD2411122288 Tehran IRNA in English 1221 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Athens, Nov. 24, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said Iran would have "better understanding with many Arab countries," following the cease-fire in the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war but Egypt would not be one of them because of its ties with Israel.

Recently Kuwait re-opened its embassy in Tehran and signs are emerging that Iran and Saudi Arabia are preparing the grounds to restore relations.

"The main reason that Iran broke relations with Egypt was the signing of the Camp David treaty," Dr Velayati said. "The reason is still there, so we don't want to re-establish relations with Egypt."

Egypt signed a U.S.-brokered peace treaty with Israel in 1979 for which it was expelled from the Arab League. In the last year most Arab states have restored their ties with Cairo, the latest Algeria which Thursday announced it would reopen its embassy in the Egyptian capital.

Velayati was speaking to IRNA during a brief stop here Wednesday on his way to Rome where he is to hold talks with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. He will also open a seminar of Iranian ambassadors and senior diplomats in Europe.

Velayati repeated that Iraq's lack of response to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's plan to implement Resolution 598 and its insistence on pre-conditions outside the resolution were major obstacles in the way towards settling the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The 3rd round of peace talks with Iraq earlier this month in Geneva was "not very successful because Iraq had made difficulties in the way of implementing Resolution 598."

The main impediment to progress in the Geneva peace talks remained "the raising of pre-conditions by Iraq like in the past."

Two previous rounds of talks in Geneva and in New York in the past three months have also failed to achieve significant progress because of Iraq's claim over the Arvand River, called Shatt al-'Arab by the Iraqis, and its insistence on clearing the waterway.

Velayati said Iraq should accept the procedure of the peace plan as presented by Perez de Cuellar in his 4-point plan that forms a part of the 10-point Resolution 598.

The plan calls foremost for the strengthening of the cease-fire and freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf, withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders, exchange of prisoners of war and resolution of mutual differences including the issue of the Arvand River.

"If you want to have peace talks, you should accept a frame-work," Velayati said.

Velayati said after Tehran's acceptance of a cease-fire last July Iran withdrew from all occupied Iraqi territories to internationally recognized borders, but Iraq still occupies more than a 1,000 square kms of Iran.

Larijani, Besharati Brief French Delegation

*LD2411181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is to visit Tehran shortly, it was said in a meeting between a visiting French parliamentary delegation and Deputy Prime Minister 'Alireza Mo'ayeri, here today.

A French delegation, here for talks on ways of expanding Tehran-Paris ties, also held separate talks with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Besharati and Larijani briefed the delegation on the priorities Iran gives to its rehabilitation projects and the role the French Government can play in this regard. The two sides also announced readiness of their governments to expand mutual ties.

The delegation is made up of Jean Marie Daillet, Jacques Masdeu Arus and Yves Tavernier who are representing political parties of Union For French Democracy (UDF), Rally for the Republic (RPR) and the Socialist Party (PS) in the National Assembly of France.

Thatcher's Party Has 'No Record' of Remarks

*LD2411174588 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT
24 Nov 88*

[Text] London, Nov. 24, IRNA—Both the Prime Minister's Office and the ruling Conservative Party say that they have no record of Margaret Thatcher ever saying that the Islamic Government would not last long in Iran and would be replaced by a secular regime.

"I would be amazed if she said anything like that," a spokesman for her office told IRNA Thursday. "That would be interference in internal affairs, which she would never do."

According to the pro-monarchist publication "ECHO OF IRAN", Thatcher told a party meeting in her London constituency of Finchley in September that after imam, the present Islamic Government under the supervision of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani would only "last for a few months" and then a secular regime would come to power.

"It would be outrageous, I simply cannot believe she would have said such a thing," the spokesman said but was unable to deny it outright as it was a party matter said at a constituency meeting.

A central office spokesman for her Conservative Party also found it "very surprising" but equally was unable to deny it outright as the prime minister made innumerable on and off the records comments.

He said that there was certainly "no record" of such a statement at a Conservative meeting during September and was very confident that it was "a false rumour. I do not think any experienced—and she is certainly a world figure today and very experienced—would make a hole for herself like that," the spokesman added.

Bandar-e 'Abbas-Dubayy Radio Service To Begin
LD2411215988 Tehran IRNA in English 2125 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—A direct aircraft radio service for passenger and military planes is shortly to become operational between the Iranian Persian Gulf port city of Bandar-e 'Abbas and Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates.

The decision comes in the wake of the accidental hitting of an Iran Air airbus at Hormuz Strait by a missile fired from the U.S. Vincennes on 3 July at which 290 passengers and crew members lost their lives. In-flight communications for passenger planes flying between the two cities are currently radioed from Tehran.

Managing director of the civil aviation organization of Iran Javad Rana'i said here today that an Iranian delegation is to present a report of the findings of an inquiry commission of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to the technical commission of ICAO.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Holds Meetings With Political Leaders
BK2311163488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had separate meetings with the (Mawlana Fazlur Rahman), secretary general of Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Islam—Fazlur Rahman

group—and Altaf Hussain, the leader of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], in Islamabad today. They discussed matters on the post-election political situation in the country and on the formation of the new government.

The president had separate meetings with Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], and Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Islamic Jamhuri Ittehad last night.

Benazir Bhutto told a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon that during her meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan last night, she had told him that they wanted a real atmosphere of confidence for a peaceful transfer of power. She said that the president also expressed such sentiments. She said her meeting with the president has created an atmosphere of understanding. She said that they exchanged views on the political situation of the country and on the formation of the new government. She said the president believes that the nomination of the prime minister should come after the completion of the election process, including the election of the speaker and the women members. Benazir Bhutto said that she recommended to her party that the appointment of the prime minister should precede the convening of the National Assembly session. She thanked the president for consenting to review this matter. PPP legal adviser (Yahya Bakhtiar) will meet with Attorney General Aziz A. Munshi on this matter.

In reply to a question, Bhutto said that the PPP has the legal right to be summoned to form the government and there should not be any delay. She said the president had assured her that no steps would be taken in the interim period which affect the results of the election.

In reply to a question on her meeting with Army Chief General Aslam Beg, she said that they discussed the political situation. In reply to a question, Bhutto said the PPP wants the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the formation of a government of the people's choice there to facilitate the return of 3 million refugees back to their homes.

PPP Leader Bhutto on Meeting
BK2311165688 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Miss Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader, has said denial of power to her party could plunge the country into deep crisis. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad, she said the delay in appointing a new prime minister is unconstitutional and amounts to cheating the people. She said it is also giving the Islamic Democratic Alliance time to subvert the verdict of the people by indulging in horse trading.

Miss Bhutto said during her meeting with the acting president last night, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan was insisting that he would name the prime minister only after the house elects the speaker during its inaugural session on the 7th of next month.

The PPP leader said her party's legal advisers are seeing the attorney general to discuss the issue. She claimed her party enjoyed a majority in the new National Assembly and she does not even require the mandatory 60 days to prove the majority on the floor of the house.

Miss Bhutto also had a long meeting with the chief of Army Staff, General Aslam Mirza Beg, late last night. Asked about the meeting, she said they had discussed the current political situation. She also said her party was not interested in putting up a candidate for the post of president.

Meanwhile, an independent member of the senate, Mr Javid Jabir, has joined the Pakistan People's Party. Miss Bhutto introduced him to newsmen at the press conference.

The Islamic Democratic Alliance leader, Mr Nawaz Sharif, also met the president last night. Later, addressing a press conference, he said he had appealed to the president not to appoint Miss Benazir Bhutto as the next prime minister simply because her group has relatively more seats in the National Assembly.

Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam Chief on Talks

BK2311162188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The secretary general of the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam, Fazlur Rahman group (Mawlana Fazlur Rahman), told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that he had discussed with the president the present political situation in the country, including formation of the government.

He said the government should be handed over to the party which has majority in the National Assembly. He, however, said the members have not so far taken oath of their office and the election to the women seats is yet to be held. He said he had assured the president that his party would cooperate in the best interest of the nation for strengthening democracy and for a better future of the country.

Muhajir Movement Leader Comments

BK2411032088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Altaf Hussain, the leader of Mujahir Qaumi Movement [MQM], who met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad yesterday, has said that his organization stands for the transfer of power according to the Constitution and democratic traditions. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad last night, he said that he

presented his party's position to the president and congratulated him for his efforts to restore democracy in the country after a long time without it. He said that the MQM has been trying to strengthen the democratic traditions in the country so that the process of integration is promoted and the people's problems are solved by their representatives. Referring to the MQM's talks with the Pakistan People's Party and Islamic Democratic Alliance, he said: The joint committees set up to review priority demands [by the MQM] are expected to submit their reports within a few days, after which we will be able to decide which party should be supported.

Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Pakistan Chief

BK2411111388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had a meeting in Islamabad today with the secretary general of the Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Pakistan, Mawlana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi. They discussed the political situation in the country following general elections and matters relating to formation of a new government.

Premier Nomination To Follow Speaker Election

BK2411154188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had a meeting in Islamabad today with Mawlana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, secretary general of the Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Pakistan. They discussed the political situation in the country following general elections and matters relating to the formation of a new government.

Later, addressing a press conference, Mawlana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi said that during the meeting, the president told him that the prime minister will be nominated after the party position is clarified in the National Assembly, following the election of a speaker [scheduled for 7 December] and the election for [reserved] women's seats. He told newsmen that he apprised the president of his party's position and said that his party supports strengthening the federalism and ideology of Pakistan and the country's security and stability at all costs. He said the transfer of power should be totally in line with constitutional requirements. The Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Pakistan leader said the party's general body will meet on Saturday [26 July] to consider the formation of the government.

Shujaat Ali Announces Candidacy for President

BK2411153188 Hong Kong AFP in English
1420 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 24 (AFP)-Shujaat Ali, 70, a close associate of Pakistan's founding father Mohammed Ali Jinnah, announced Thursday he will seek election as the nation's president.

"I will contest as an independent," said Mr. Ali, becoming the first to proclaim his candidacy for head of state.

An electoral college made up of the National Assembly, Senate and all four provincial legislatures chooses Pakistan's president, who in turn formally names its prime minister. Presidential polls could take place in late December.

Mr. Ali, contacted by telephone, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he has been in contact "with all sorts of members in the legislatures" to solicit their support for his candidacy.

He recalled serving Mr. Jinnah as parliamentary secretary in the first legislature after Pakistan's independence in 1947. Later he stepped out of the political spotlight and worked on memoirs.

The Pakistan People's Party, headed by Benazir Bhutto, has decided not to put up a candidate for president despite winning the most seats in last week's National Assembly elections.

There has been speculation that current President Ghulam Ishaq Khan might be regarded as acceptable to all parties and retain his job.

Sri Lanka

Foreign Minister Praises Soviet-Indian Statement
BK2411141188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1240 GMT 24 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 24 (LANKAPUVATH)—A NOVOSTI press agency despatch received by LANKAPUVATH states that Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed welcome the Soviet-Indian statement, issued at New Delhi as a "constructive document".

Mr Hameed also said: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have, among other things, affirmed the concept of the interdependence of the world, and called for the establishment of a system of international security, confidence-building among nations, conventional and nuclear disarmament leading to the vision of a non-violent, nuclear-weapon-free world by the next century. Linked to this is the reiteration of the primacy of the United Nations. I endorse the need to strengthen the world body. Of late the UN has played an important role in seeking to defuse tension in such areas as Afghanistan, the Gulf, and so on. They envisage a similar role for the UN in resolving the Middle East crisis. The rapid developments in that region underline the urgent need of action under UN auspices.

It is my opinion that with the increasing complexities of modern life the UN's authority and potential must be mobilized and expanded, because multilateralism as represented by the world body enables all nations, big and small, to make their contribution to the search for peace and security.

There has been undue foot-dragging in implementing the UN-approved IOPZ [Indian Ocean Peace Zone] recommendations and Sri Lanka as the sponsor welcomes the Soviet-India statement during the early convening of an international conference to implement them.

A new international economic order is of immediate concern to Third World countries, confronted as they are with the growing debt problem and allied constraints. This has been reflected in the deliberations of the NAM [Non-aligned Movement] and UNCTAD. I myself had on many occasions focused attention on this burning issue at the UN and other international fora. I should think the demand contained in the Soviet-Indian statement that the recommendations of the UN conference on disarmament and development should be implemented, because they are eminently reasonable and brook no delay.

Security Forces Kill 5, Capture 46 'Subversives'
BK2411112488 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Five alleged subversives were killed and 46 apprehended as security forces stepped up their offensive against terrorism in southern Sri Lanka. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that according to latest reports, security forces had ambushed a gang of six subversives on Monday [21 November] at the Rambavihara Road junction at Angunakolapelessa in the southern province district of Hambantota, killing five of them.

The forces seized 2 shotguns, 1 locally made revolver, 1 identity card, and 3 posters. One subversive, who was injured, had managed to escape.

Official sources said that investigations had revealed that the leader of the gang had worn a camouflage uniform and is believed to be an Army deserter. Three of them have been identified. The bodies were handed over to the Angunakolapelessa police.

The report further states security forces had launched a follow-up operations in the same area.

AFP Reports 17 Killed in Continuing Violence
BK2511093288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT
25 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 25 (AFP)—At least 17 people, including three Indian troops, were killed in continuing violence in Sri Lanka involving Tamil and Sinhalese guerrillas, officials here said Friday.

The most powerful Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), killed three Indian soldiers and a policeman in separate gunbattles in Northern and Eastern Provinces Thursday, a defence official said.

He said three LTTE activists were shot dead by Indian troops.

In southern Sri Lanka, activists of the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) shot dead four ruling party supporters in Elpitiya village and five more in Weligama Thursday, police said.

They said police fired at a JVP-backed demonstration in northwestern Kurunegala District Thursday, killing one person and wounding five.

Police had Thursday reported the massacre of three Indian civilians, including two women, and a local manager of a sugarcane plantation in Monaragala District.

Police said the LTTE or the JVP could be responsible for the attack, which sent shock waves through the small Indian community in Sri Lanka.

Both the LTTE and the JVP are opposed, for different reasons, to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi has nearly 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east.

Since the accord, the JVP has been accused of killing over 500 ruling party men, security personnel and leftists backing the peace accord, which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The LTTE is continuing a bush war after repudiating the peace plan and has killed nearly 695 Indians and lost 2,000 men in fighting in the past 13 months.